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AN

AIDE-DE-CAMP'S RECOLLECTIONS

OF

SERVICE IN CHINA,

ETC.

VOL. I.

On Stone by E. Clayton

Drawn by J. White Esq. Royal Marines.

KIN-SHAN OR THE GOLDEN ISLAND.

AN

AIDE-DE-CAMP'S RECOLLECTIONS

OF

SERVICE IN CHINA,

A Residence in Hong-Kong,

AND VISITS TO OTHER ISLANDS IN THE CHINESE SEAS.

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BY

CAPTAIN ARTHUR CUNYNGHAME,

AIDE-DE-CAMP TO MAJOR-GENERAL LORD SALTOUN, K.C.B. G.C.H. COMMANDING HER MAJESTY'S AND THE HON. EAST INDIA COMPANY'S TROOPS IN CHINA.

3.9.24

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON
SAUNDERS AND OTLEY, CONDUIT STREET.
1844.

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DEDICATION.

London, August 6, 1844.

MY DEAR LORD,

In acknowledging and returning my grateful thanks to your Lordship for your permission to dedicate to you this my first appearance in print, I am not wholly without fear that by such honourable patronage the public may be led to expect better things.

I am induced to think that some of these events and anecdotes, occurring in a country

so strange and new to all Europe, may be worth recording; and I sincerely hope my readers may experience the same amusement in perusing these pages that I had in compiling them.

I rejoice in every opportunity of assuring your Lordship that I have a grateful sense of your continued kindness towards me; and

I have the honour to remain,

My dear Lord,

Very faithfully yours,

ARTHUR CUNYNGHAME.

MAJOR-GENERAL

LORD SALTOUN, K.C.B. G.C.H.

&c. &c. &c.

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CHAPTER I.

H. M. S. Belle-Isle—Contrary winds—Mount Edgcumbe—Eddystone Light—Isle of Madeira—Teneriffe—Middies and ponies—Band of H. M. 98th—Rescue of an officer—Wanderer schooner—Oranges and bananas—Story at Teneriffe—Peak of Teneriffe—Cape de Verd—Flying fish—North-east trades—Sharks—Tacking ship—Cross the Equator.

At the latter end of the year 1841, having been appointed to a staff situation in China, I proceeded to Plymouth, attendant upon the general officer with whom I was about to serve. Our first care was to visit the ship which was to be our home for so long

a period: we accordingly proceeded to the Sound. We had been previously led to expect that though she was so large a vessel she would be very crowded, but the state we found her in far exceeded any idea I had formed on the subject. It had been thought requisite to cram into her, besides the troops and sailors, no less than eighty-seven women and children, making in a grand total, what she was destined to take out, nearly 1300 human beings. It would indeed be an endless task to enumerate what else she contained: sheep, pigs, ducks, fowls, &c., &c.; in fact, she appeared a perfect Noah's Ark, or otherwise resembled the idea I had pictured to myself of a first-rate Chinese junk. However, they stated, what certainly eventually proved to be the case, that all would shake down in the Channel. The cabins assigned to us were very good. It was arranged that we should mess with the captain, which is generally the custom in men-of-war. This was infinitely preferable to us, as it took a vast deal of difficulty and trouble out of our hands.

In a state of suspense, not knowing when we should be off; we remained in Devonport

more than a week. The wind holding continually to the south and south-west, the Sound became crowded with shipping outward bound; among those was the Malabar, 74, which had made three unsuccessful attempts to get down Channel, and had each time been obliged to return. A beautiful schooner called the Wanderer, Royal Yacht Squadron, was also wind-bound: she was the property of Mr. Boyd, and was about to start on a voyage round the world; her tonnage was 148, old register. We afterwards met her at Teneriffe, and in South America. Well may England's boast be that, of being the first maritime nation in the world, when men of large properties and independence, for the sake of honour and glory, not only voluntarily undergo all kinds of risks, privations, and hardships, but, moreover, as in this instance, for the sake of pleasure and a thirst for enterprise, sacrifice many of the comforts of a home, together with the luxuries appertaining to wealth, to undertake a tedious voyage across such deserts of water, as, by the foreign merchant, are solely traversed for the purpose of enriching himself.

On our return from this first visit to the Belle-Isle, we landed below Mount Edgcumbe. The views from different parts of these grounds almost equal any it has been my lot to enjoy in the many foreign countries I have at different times visited, but sadly wanting the magnificent climate of more southern soils.

We embarked finally on the 2nd of December; the wind blowing strong from the N.E., it was not considered advisable to get under weigh that evening, as the day was far spent, and many of the seamen were young and inexperienced hands.

On the following morning, by nine, we had left Plymouth Sound, and passed that wonderful structure, the breakwater by the eastern passage. We were quickly followed by the Apollo, a 40-gun frigate, and the Sapphire, 28, both of which vessels had been deprived of their guns, for the purpose of giving accommodation to the troops embarked in them; they had received Admiralty orders to place themselves under the command of our captain; they were also to carry out drafts of men for the regiments already stationed in the Celestial Empire.

At 1 P.M., we passed the Eddystone Light, standing proudly erect amidst the surrounding deep.

For many days, the wind continuing fair and strong, knocking up a heavy following sea, the Belle-Isle being jury-rigged, she rolled amazingly, and the constant crashes of china and glass exceeded that of a county election dinner; and although this was the eighth time of my having crossed the Bay of Biscay, I was amongst those who were very unwell for many days.

On the tenth day of our voyage, the agreeable sound of land on the weather bow was shouted from the main-top-gallant cross trees: this we knew, from the position we were in, to be the Island of Madeira. Our run thus far was very good, for although the old Belle-Isle could not be over praised for her sailing qualities, yet by the constant vigilance of her captain and officers in setting and shifting sail, as circumstances required, not a moment was lost.

We skirted the Island of Madeira at such a distance as not to allow us to be within the influence of its proverbial calms, and too great a one to distinguish objects dis-

tinctly, even with the aid of a telescope. It stands out in bold relief from the Atlantic, and were there a good harbour, would, I conceive, be much more frequently visited by outward-bound ships, and, lying so directly in the track of our East and West Indian trade, doubtless it would have crept into our possession many years since.

In two days more we came in sight of Teneriffe, every one anxious to catch the first view of the Peak; but in consequence of the immense masses of heavy clouds which continually, on every side, hung over the island, it was not discernible during either of the three days we remained at the anchorage. This roadstead is considered much safer, particularly at this season of the year, than that of Madeira. On a nearer approach to the island, the wind, although strong outside, here nearly deserted us, and we did not arrive opposite the town of Santa Cruz until the afternoon. We soon after received pratique, and fired a salute of seventeen guns in honour of the Spanish flag, which of course was duly returned. We next visited H.B.M.'s Consul and the Captain-General of the Islands;

the latter, who had the appearance of a soldier, had served constantly with Espartero, with whom he was reported to be a great favourite; but if so, the reason for his being left in this out-of-the-way spot I was at a loss to determine, and at the very time when I should have imagined Espartero most required his friends around him, to assist in staying up the somewhat tottering pinnacle which he had raised for himself upon the fickle and ever changeable basis of public opinion, more especially in a country which for ages had been a prey to civil and intestine disorder.

We next visited the cathedral, to see that which must always be our boast to affirm is somewhat a rare sight—the two British colours taken from the hero of Trafalgar and the Nile, when he made his unsuccessful descent upon the island. It was charming to see the proud looks which the vergers cast upon us, exclaiming, "Mira usted, Senhores, la bandiera Britanica." A Spanish tertulia terminated the evening's amusement.

On the second day of our stay, all the ponies the island could boast, were brought

into requisition by the middies of the different ships, and most ludicrous was it to see the figures they cut when running races through the streets, to the mingled terror and astonishment of the natives. They were, however, not so perfectly trained as at Malta, where no sooner has Jack mounted for his ride than the beast starts at full speed out of the town; after proceeding at the same pace about one mile, if his rider be not already unseated, he commences a display of antics, such as one of Astley's company could scarcely surmise, and poor Jack is soon left in the mire, when the brute instantly sets off home, and long before his unhappy tenant can return, or demand redress, he is on his way with a second fare, in the midst of his old tricks again. A horse that is expert at dispatching its riders is therefore considerably more profitable to its owner, particularly on the arrival of a fresh line-of-battle ship, before the brute's propensities have as yet been discovered.

At the particular desire of the fair donnas our band was paraded in the Plaza. This was returned by a Spanish play, performed

at a pretty little theatre, for the especial gratification of "los Ingleses," it being wound up by a cachucha dance, very fairly executed, and which of course drew down shouts of applause.

On the morning of the 1st January, previous to sailing, I accompanied a party to a town about five miles in the interior of the island, called Laguna; why so named I was at a loss to make out, as we appeared to ascend the whole distance, and when there, high mountains and a rugged country lay around us, without sign of either lake or marsh. We walked into the cathedral, the pulpit of which is of white marble, most beautifully carved. Again we were disappointed of any view of the Peak, it being still enveloped in mist. We now feared we should leave the island without as much as once catching a glimpse of it.

As one of the military officers was returning in a boat belonging to the shore, rowed by six hands, when about half way to the ship they demanded of him an exorbitant sum of money, which, very properly, he declined paying; upon this they again returned towards the shore, which, having neared, the

Spaniards unsheathed their long knives; he did not wait to ascertain their intentions, but instantly drawing his sword he struck the nearest to him across the face, and, springing into the sea, was fortunate enough to reach the cutter of the Belle Isle, which hove in sight from behind an angle of the mole at the time. Her crew instantly gave chase, but ere they reached the beach, the Spaniards having drawn their boat on dry ground, were far inland.

On the day prior to our departure, the Wanderer schooner, which I before mentioned as having seen in Plymouth, made her appearance, having had a very quick, though boisterous, passage out: she had touched and remained a few days at Madeira. Some of the inhabitants were very anxious to see a vessel kept alone for pleasure, an idea which to them appeared preposterous in the extreme, and more especially so when they were given to understand it was the intention of her owner to take her round the globe; they requested permission to be allowed to see her, and their astonishment at her comforts and many luxuries called forth continued exclamations

of surprise and pleasure, they all having been persuaded, from her rakish appearance, the number and smartness of her crew, that she must be intended for a slaver, which, to many of them, was a notion more consonant to their feelings than a yacht for pastime alone.

One most amusing circumstance happened at our departure—a certain officer, from the north country, noted for the care he took of his purse, thought it more thrifty to send his servant's wife on shore with his dirty linen than run the risk of entrusting it to the Spaniards to wash. She accordingly proceeded to land, accompanied by her husband and a small child, as well as the bag of linen; the heat of the day being excessive, long ere it was finished, they betook themselves to a cabaret; the wine, to which they were unaccustomed, soon had its due effect,—and, suffice it to say, they were both found the following morning considerably overcome; not only was the bag of clothes missing, but their hopeful progeny moreover could nowhere be found, nor was it until a few moments prior to the sailing of the ship, that the retreat of the darling

infant was discovered, being found asleep in an empty tub, its initiation into the propensities of its parents having already progressed a considerable extent; the linen, no doubt, a few days subsequent to our departure gracing the person of some fashionable don.

Having provided ourselves with a store of oranges and bananas to cool us on the passage across the line, and laid in a stock of Teneriffe wine, we again weighed anchor; this was now no light matter, for, it having been dropped in fifty-two fathoms, the quantity of chain veered out amounted to 185; it was a tremendous heave, but with the united efforts of about 300 to 400 men at the capstan, and also tackles, we succeeded, after about one hour's hard work, in getting it all on board; with royals and studding sails low and aloft, followed by the Apollo and Sapphire, we left the roadstead.

About nine the next day we were summoned to look at the Peak, and a most magnificent scene was presented to our view. Its majestic head was capped with snow; it rose perpendicularly out of the sea; and although at a distance, at the least compu-

On Stone by H. Clayton.

Drawn by L.t Anderson, R.A.

VIEW OF THE ISLAND OF TENERIFFE.

Saunders & Otley, Conduit St.

THE ROYAL BRANCH OF THE ... SOCIETY

tation, of fifty miles, it appeared to us not more than ten.

The wind still blew strong from the N.E., and nothing for some days occurred to break the even tenour of our way, save corporeal punishment inflicted upon one of the crew for theft,—in so closely packed a community it being absolutely requisite to have the most perfect understanding between the pronouns, *meum* and *tuum*.

We crossed the tropic of Cancer, the thermometer averaging from sixty to seventy degrees. On the morning of the fifth, we were surrounded by a dense atmosphere, which we were informed is invariably the case during an easterly wind on this part of the African coast, the air being loaded with light particles of sand blown from the desert, covering the decks and booms with a fine golden powder.

The first of the Cape Verd Islands which we made was Sal, a small lofty spot, the most northern of the group; shortly after, the Island of Bonavista hove in sight.

Here a fatal termination had well nigh been put to this portion of the China expedition, for the fog clearing up we found

ourselves moving straight upon the land, the ship was quickly hauled close upon a wind; the captain attentively examined the charts, and upon comparing them with the best instructions he possessed, discovered the island to have been laid down nearly forty-five miles to the westward of its real position. We all congratulated ourselves that this circumstance had not happened in the night; too much reliance was not put for the future in any of the charts, every land we subsequently made we discovered to have been laid down incorrectly; Cape Frio, in the Brazils, was nearly forty miles out. The island of St. Paul's, in the south Indian ocean, was placed forty-one miles to the north of its proper latitude. Java head, at the entrance of the Sunda Straits, we discovered to be forty-five miles to the east of where our charts laid it down. It seems somewhat singular that ships should still be supplied with these old documents, the value of the vessels, and the lives of so many persons being placed in jeopardy on account of their inaccuracies.

With a fine breeze we soon put all these islands far in our wake. The immense

number of flying fish, which, on the following day, surrounded the ship, was surprising; they rose from the water on our near approach, and continued to skim its surface for a distance of thirty or forty paces; some, however, very far exceeding this: they resembled swallows, flying low prior to heavy rain.

The trades had now fairly set in, and carried us up to the lat. of 5 north.

Nothing worthy of noting down occurred to us until the morning of the 10th of January, when a calm was succeeded by heavy squalls of wind and rain; this I believe constantly is the case on a near approach to the equinoctial line. There the first shark came to visit us, and an ugly monster did he appear, in length about nine feet; we offered him a tempting piece of pork, which he knowingly contrived to swallow, leaving the hook and line with us, saving his own bacon while devouring ours. Scarce was dinner over when we were informed an enormous shark had been hauled on deck; we proceeded to view him, but long ere our arrival he was divided into a thousand pieces. Attached to different

parts of his body were some sucker fish, which appear to fix themselves in the same manner as the sea-louse does upon the salmon, and very probably for the same purpose; we were told he had measured twelve feet, and in the act of bringing him out of the water, a soldier, more eager to see him than was prudent, fell overboard,—fortunately, however, no relative of the entrapped monster was near the spot at the moment. This man was soon on board again, having got hold of the bight of a rope which was towing over.

The circumstance gave rise to many anecdotes relating to these animals. One officer stated, that a few years previously, being then employed in the suppression of the slave trade on the coast of Africa, where sharks were very numerous and voracious, having on a particular occurrence rowed into an unfrequented bay, they actually seized the blades of the oars with their teeth, which breaking off in the wood, were there left sticking; a part of one of these oars was sent to the British Musuem, where, perhaps, it still remains; another related a fearful circumstance which hap-

pened to a quarter-master then on board the Winchester, in Port Royal, Jamaica. The poor fellow was in the act of stepping on board from a boat, his hands already grasping the side ropes, when his foot slipping, he fell between the two, still retaining his hold; before he could be rescued from his perilous situation, an enormous shark attacked him, and actually bit off the whole of the lower portion of his body, as high up as his breast; in the agonies of death his grasp relaxed not, and the portion which was left was hoisted on board, the funeral service soon after being performed upon his *remains*.

On the 14th of January, having now quitted England twenty-four days, the wind for the first time veered a-head of us, we close hauled, and soon after tacked ship: it is somewhat curious that this was the first instance we had occasion to do so since we had quitted England. We soon became very well accustomed to hear that odd expression, "dice—and no higher," used by the quarter-master to the man at the wheel, to denote the ship being close hauled,—to keep her thus, and let her come no higher.

On our crossing the line, the usual ceremonies were performed by Neptune in the most approved style: he did not omit to state that he never had had so much work upon his hands before.

I cannot forget mentioning the good feelings evinced by all parties on this occasion. It proceeded, in the first instance, from the willingness shewn by the officers to submit to so long established a custom, and tended to prove the beneficial effect of that proper understanding which should always exist between themselves and their men, creating respect and mutual confidence, and for which *our* army is so justly celebrated.

On the same evening we crossed the Equator, I was not a little amused at the pains and anxiety evinced by many of the young soldiers, in their endeavours to catch a glimpse of this line.

"I say, Bill, they've been a hoaxing on us; I can't see no line." "No more can't I,"—were more than once repeated within my hearing.

CHAPTER II.

Man overboard—Life-buoy—Man falling from the mast-head—Burial at sea—Bear-up for South America—Cape Frio—Harbour of Rio Janeiro—La Gloria—Corcovado—Palace of the Emperor—French plays—The opera—Population of the town—Slaves—Barometer—Row in the town of Rio—Pay-money.

At about half-past ten on the morning of the 18th, as I was quietly writing in my cabin, I was aroused by the cry of "a man overboard." I immediately jumped up, and rushing to the stern windows, saw the poor fellow struggling in the waves; we were going close on the wind at the rate of about four knots, he appeared to swim with confidence and strength, and I felt no doubt in my own mind as to his being saved. I had not been watching him many seconds when I

observed that the life-buoy* had been let go, and that he was not very far distant from it; this gave me additional assurance of his safety.

I returned to my cabin for my telescope, wishing more narrowly to watch his countenance; but on again searching the waves, I could see no signs whatever of this unfortunate fellow.

By this time a boat was far on its way in their endeavour to rescue him; in this charitable office they persisted a long time, and in every direction, but all to no purpose; they returned solely with the buoy; he either sank from exhaustion or fear of being seized by a shark, or what is not improbable,

* The life-buoy is fixed at the stern of all ships bearing Her Majesty's pendant; it is made of iron in the form of two globes, connected by a tube of the same metal; these being filled with air are thus rendered very buoyant; it is attached to the vessel in such a way as it may be readily slipped by pulling a knob of iron or brass in the same way as you would ring a common door bell. A portfire is attached in order that, should circumstances require its use by night, it may be effectual in its object; this is ignited by pulling another wire prior to letting it go; it then shows a most brilliant light around for a very considerable distance; were this wanting, it would be of small utility in the darkness of night.

that greedy monster of the deep had actually scented his prey and devoured him ere life was scarce extinct. This first untoward event threw, as you may readily imagine, a gloom over all on board, and which unhappily the events of the following day had no tendency to dissipate.

About six in the evening I heard an unusual stir on deck; my first impression naturally was that the unhappy accident of the preceding day had met with a repetition; it turned out, if anything, still more fearful. In consequence of a sudden squall, orders were given to furl royals; hands were proceeding aloft to execute this order; the captain was on his quarter-deck, watching their motions, surrounded by many of his officers, when they observed a man who, having gained the main-top-gallant cross-trees, by some unaccountable cause, perhaps through giddiness in his head, miss his footing, and commence his descent downwards with the speed of an arrow; he appeared for some time still to possess sufficient presence of mind to endeavour to arrest his progress by grasping whatever ropes lay within his reach; in a few seconds, head

foremost, he reached the deck, with the velocity and force of a cannon-shot; he never spoke more; his skull was fractured to the neck joint, his brains strewed around; ere he was picked up he was dead. These indeed were fearful examples of the uncertainty of human life.

On the following forenoon an awful and deathlike silence reigned throughout the ship, relieved at intervals by the solemn tinklings of the watch bell; at half-past eleven the body was placed upon a grating, that hammock which in his pride of health and strength had served him as a resting-place after the cares and trials of many a watchful night, was now his winding-sheet, the glorious ensign of the country he had served, being used as his pall. Most impressively was the service appointed to be read at sea delivered by our mild and amiable chaplain, rivetting strongly the attention of all on board. "Thus we commend his body to the deep;" at these words his remains were precipitated into the fathomless ocean, and instantly sank out of our sight, two 32-pounds cannon-shot having, according to

custom, been previously, for that purpose, sewn up with the corpse.

For some days the captain was undecided as to whether he should proceed to the Cape of Good Hope direct, or in the first instance to Rio de Janeiro; the continued calms we here met with determined him to the latter course.

Accordingly, on the 25th we bore up for the coast of South America. I will not deny being exceedingly rejoiced at the near prospect of a run on shore, after having been penned up on ship-board for so many weeks; independently of this, the certainty we now had of touching at all four quarters of the globe in one voyage was particularly satisfactory, and by no means a common occurrence, for in most of the voyages to the East Indies, those vessels which touch at Rio seldom do so at the Cape, and *vice versa*.

On the 1st of February, one of the men caught a dolphin, which entirely belied all previous representations I had seen of one—generally represented in uncouth shapes, as fancy leads the artist of some village sign. Its real form is not unlike that of a gigantic

mackerel. It changed colour incessantly; the tinges of blue and yellow were very beautiful; in taste it resembled that of the Bonita fish—perhaps the port wine sauce with which it was cooked gave it a higher relish than it deserved—at all events it was voted very good; but a sea appetite is seldom a bad digester.

Early on the 2nd of February, we came within sight of Cape Frio, which appeared a lofty promontory somewhat detached from the main land. The light-house upon its summit is 1500 feet from the level of the water. H. M. Packet Thetis was wrecked close to this point, about four years since, with between three and four hundred thousand pounds sterling of specie on board; a large portion of this money was eventually got up.

At noon on the succeeding day, we passed a fort at the mouth of the harbour, called Santa Crux; opposite to this is a very remarkable mountain, rising abruptly out of the sea, which has justly obtained the cognomen of the "Pilhon d'Assucar," or the Sugar Loaf. At one P.M. we were safely anchored off the town of St. Sebastian.

This is a magnificent anchorage; perfectly sheltered from all winds, the whole navies of the world could ride in security between this and the opposite town of Braganza. The country around was clothed in the most luxuriant foliage, the back-ground of this truly lovely panorama being composed of the most stupendous range, called the Organ Mountains, from their having a striking resemblance to that instrument, affording in their retired valleys, during the almost insupportable heat of summer, a cool and delicious retreat to the foreign resident, whose youth may have been reared in the cold northern temperature. We found H. M. S. Andromache, and a few other English and French men-of-war, besides a large hulk for the reception of those slaves who should be captured by any of Her Majesty's cruisers on that service, where these unfortunate creatures remain until they can be sent to our various West Indian Islands as free labourers; for this purpose a steamer, called the Aden, is constantly employed; two captured slave ships were also lying near us, fine powerful looking schooners, with enormous booms and

yards; these had been taken but a few days previously. After an early dinner, we removed on shore, and took apartments in a part of the town called La Gloria. In this part of Rio most of the English merchants, as also our minister, reside, and we very soon discovered it to be by far the most pleasant portion of the town. Much to our surprise we were not annoyed by vermin of any description,—musquitoes, &c. Having fully made up our minds to this annoyance, we were most agreeably disappointed. In the cool of the evening we drove to one of the lions of Rio, the Botanical Gardens, the road to which was very lovely; passing through a suburb called Catiti, where many of the richer merchants have country residences, we came to the fashionable ride and drive called Batafoco. This ran along an arm of the sea, which from being almost land-locked had quite the appearance of a lake; our route then diverged towards the famous mountain called Corcovado; shortly after, we arrived at the gardens. I paid particular attention in observing, during the whole of this drive, the size of the trees, but was much surprised and disappointed no-

where to see them of that stupendous growth I had been led to expect in this tropical climate. The gardens appear neatly kept; they contain most of the flowers and shrubs common to that climate and soil, besides those indigenous to other latitudes, such as the tea, coffee, and cocoa plant. We returned by night; the fire-flies were in great abundance, illuminating the road,—more especially numerous near any low and marshy spot we chanced to pass.

One of our visits was to the town of St. Sebastian itself, which seemed in a very thriving state — the shops abundantly stored with all kinds of European goods, particularly including those of England and France, the demands for which were very exorbitant. The Museum contained a large collection of native South American dresses. We prolonged our drive to San Christoval, the palace of the Emperor, which is distant from the town about three miles; I cannot say much for its magnificence, but it appeared to answer its purpose extremely well. Some of the views were truly noble; in fact, too much can scarcely be said in praise of this superb country. As the emperor was at pre-

sent residing there, we had no opportunity of seeing its interior. We next went to a French Play, which was attended both by the emperor himself and his two sisters. He appeared to be about eighteen years of age, and much resembled the Queen of Portugal, but was not nearly so stout; nor did he appear to possess over much animation. His sisters were both good looking, and nicely dressed, and, should appearances not deceive, are both agreeable and amiable.

Our third excursion was to the summit of Corcovado, the view from which most amply repays the fatigue encountered in getting there; but who would imagine such a thing as finding plenty of cool Barclay and Perkins in this remote part of the world; and never was it enjoyed more by any one of our party than on this occasion. The height of this mountain is about 1700 feet, but from its peaked form it had the appearance of being much more. Whilst there, a violent and sudden storm, to which all tropical climates are so liable, arose. Although we were immediately drenched to the skin, yet the grandeur of the scene

the occasion opened to our view most fully repaid us for so slight a discomfort. The lightning amongst the mountains, so highly charged as they are with metallic substances, was terrifically grand; and the echo of the thunder from hill to hill amongst the Organ Mountains forcibly reminded me of the deeper notes of that instrument.

This evening, the Wanderer schooner, which we had left in Teneriffe, made her appearance. She had made, if anything, a superior passage to our own. She had visited the Grand Canaries, and St. Jago, the principal of the Cape Verds. At the opera-house, they unfortunately represented only a Spanish play, translated into Portuguese. From my ignorance of the latter language, I could obtain but little insight into its merits, but murder seemed the principal business on hand, and the audience appeared to enjoy the whole very much. The theatre is large, and nicely fitted up; but, as is the case in Lisbon, an enormous box in the centre of the house is set apart for royalty, the curtains to which are only drawn aside when its members attend.

When this is not the case, it tends to give the whole house a deserted appearance.

The population of St. Sebastian is stated to be 150,000, consisting of every nation under the sun, one-fourth of which are free, the remainder slaves. These latter have lately become most valuable property in consequence of the difficulties we have placed to their obtaining a fresh supply, by the numerous seizures our ships have made upon the coast. I had an opportunity of seeing some of them sold in the market. Strong males fetched as high as 60*l.* or 70*l.* each; females sell, altogether, at a fancy price, according to caprice or whim of the parties concerned in the bargain. I was given to understand that one cargo alone had cleared for its adventurous owner no less than 21,000*l.* sterling.

These poor people, it appears, are brought from all parts of Africa; and though, to a stranger, there is a similarity between them, yet those dealers who are accustomed to it will as readily distinguish every class and nation as a skilful grazier does the various, different, and distinct breeds of stock he is about to purchase at a country fair. It is

devoutly to be hoped this inhuman traffic will, ere long, be effectually put a stop to. I am perfectly aware that much of their present misery has arisen from the very means we have thought proper to adopt for its suppression. I allude to the concealment obliged to be practised to insure the success of the parties engaged in these speculations; but I trust that, out of present distress, much benefit may eventually accrue to this much injured race, who have every right to hold an equal place with the rest of mankind in the proper sphere in which God has placed them.

Every article for consumption in the market is fearfully dear at Rio. Horse-hire and that of carriages equally so, 2*l.* 10*s.* being the common sum charged for an evening drive in a britzka, and 15*s.* for a couple of hours in a cabriolet. There are, however, omnibuses established lately on the principal thoroughfares; and a turnpike had just made its appearance on the Botafoco road; but either the money that accrues from this tax is sadly misapplied, or the sums which they receive very small, for a more neglected road—except in their mother

country, Portugal herself — it has scarce been my lot to travel upon.

The barometer generally averaged, during the time we remained at Rio, from 79° to 82° in the shade, which, with moderate ideas, we confessed sufficiently high to please the most shivering soul of our party.

A circumstance occurred whilst there, which might have been attended with much more serious consequences than it fortunately was. A young English officer, while at the theatre, (being naturally a little vain,) fancied that a lady in the next box had become desperately enamoured of him. Under this idea, he addressed her, after watching his opportunity, as she was returning home under the care of her father, who, overhearing some of his would-be complimentary speeches, interfered, and a disturbance instantly commenced. As soon as the populace heard who was the cause of the row, they became particularly exasperated, principally on account of the bad feeling which exists with regard to us, owing to the number of slave ships our cruizers had lately had the good fortune

to capture, these vessels principally belonging to individuals of Rio.

They immediately attacked all English officers whom they met, and a very serious riot ensued; many severe wounds were given on both sides. In the sequel, the town guard turned out, and four British officers were made prisoners. Much difficulty arose on the following day in obtaining their release, which was only eventually effected by the father's agreeing to receive a considerable bribe to stay all proceedings, bills upon England being accepted to the amount.

Although no doubt, in the sequel, these officers would have been fully acquitted, yet it would have caused very considerable trouble to our authorities, and perhaps a detention of the parties concerned, if not of the whole squadron, the law proceedings being carried on in as dilatory a way in this, as is proverbially the case in the mother country.

The whole transaction being much canvassed, eventually came to the ears of the emperor himself, who ordered that the

money already paid should be immediately refunded, very properly remarking, it would be a disgrace to the Brazilian government were they to permit any transaction which would dam up the proper channel of justice by bribery and corruption.

CHAPTER III.

Heavy lightning—The Apollo missed—Albatross—Cape of Good Hope—Cape Town—Cape carriages—Farmer Peck—O. P. S.—Table Bay—The gardens at government house—Cape wines—Lion-shooting—Government country house—Mother Cary's chickens—H. M. S. Sapphire—Classification of the winds—The Sextant—Island of Java—Angeer—Canoes—Store ships—Strange story—A Dutch gentleman.

HAVING at length, after some tedious delay, completed our water, we set sail for the Cape of Good Hope. By the assistance of a light favourable breeze, we passed the Castles, and were very soon once more out at sea. On the evening of the second day, when scarce out of sight of land, and when the dull monotony of a life at sea was quietly commencing its accustomed round, a most violent tempest broke suddenly upon the

ship. We had no previous intimation of its approach, excepting, indeed, an unusual heaviness in the air, and continued lightning, both of which being so common in these latitudes, they are not generally regarded as precursors of any violent war amongst the elements. Moreover, within the tropics, the mercury in the barometer is seldom much affected, scarcely even sufficiently so as to indicate with any degree of certainty the great change we so soon experienced. The lightning was terrific, and appeared to fall directly upon us. The Belle-Isle had been fitted with Harris' lightning conductors prior to her leaving Plymouth; had which been neglected, I think we should have suffered severely from its effects; but as these conductors, I am informed, shew no visible effect in their action, it is very difficult to determine whether, in this instance, they were brought into use or not. The wind having blown a perfect hurricane for some hours, suddenly shifted from S.W., where the storm commenced, to N.E. Our three top-gallant sails and fore-top sail were blown to rags; but, with these exceptions, we received no further damage.

On the following morning we perceived that the Apollo, one of our squadron, had separated from us, nor did we see anything of her for the three following weeks, when a thick fog which surrounded us suddenly clearing away, shewed us our lost companions within a mile; we were then only a short distance off the Island of Tristan D'Acunha, a lonely spot, far removed from the usual track of any ship, situated in the centre of the South Atlantic Ocean. The Apollo fortunately had not sustained the least injury during the continuance of the storm; but a few days after her separation from us, a young mate of the name of Craven fell overboard, while in the act of conversing with some of his friends; and although the weather at the time was unusually fine, and a boat instantly lowered from the ship, nothing more was ever seen of him. It is supposed he must have struck his head against a spare anchor that lay in the chains, which, rendering him insensible, prevented his using any endeavours to save his life.

During a few days continuance of thick weather, we were fortunate enough to se-

cure two albatross, many of which birds continually paid us visits; the plumage of the greatest part of the body was of a lightish brown; one of them stood nearly three feet high, and measured, when dead, eleven feet from wing to wing, was web-footed, and much resembled the larger species of gull frequently met with on different parts of our own coast; in size, however, it far outstripped them all.

On Monday, March 14th, we came in sight of the Cape of Good Hope, which gave us all sincere pleasure, having experienced an unusually long voyage from Rio Janeiro; we quickly ran past the noted rocks called the Anvil and Bellows, and rounding the Cape, entered False Bay; the coast was bold and rocky; its general features much resembled the northern shores of this comparatively unknown continent. At the extreme end of False Bay is situated Simon's Bay, frequented almost exclusively by ships of the Royal Navy. The government have here erected a very neat dock-yard, naval hospital, &c., preferring this one by reason of its being so much more sheltered, and consequently safer, than Table Bay, the

anchorage, near Cape Town. Simon's Town also contains a very good house appropriated for the accommodation of the admiral commanding on this station. The town itself is entirely supported by supplying the ships of the Royal Navy with refreshments; latterly they have done an immense quantity of business, in consequence of the large fleet that had touched here on their way into the China seas, all vessels eastward bound making this a sort of half-way house, filling up their water, and taking in biscuit, as also fresh and salt provisions, previous to their long stretch across the South Indian Ocean.

On the following morning we despatched to Cape Town our baggage and servants in a spring van; this was drawn by eight horses, driven by two Hottentots, the one holding the reins, the other the whip. It is truly wonderful to see how beautifully these fellows manage their large teams, guiding them through the most difficult passes and over the most dangerous places, with the ease a skilful whip at home manages his four; whatever number of horses are in harness (and constantly have I seen ten in

hand), they never hold in their hands more than two pair of reins, one for the wheelers, the other for the leaders, the intermediate horses being guided each by a strap branching off from the leaders' rein, and so nicely are these adjusted, that they all feel the impulse of the hand at the same moment. Woe be to the unfortunate animal who rouses the displeasure of the whip. The terrific weapon which he wields is made of the tough and pliant bamboo, commonly about the length of a salmon rod, eighteen to twenty feet, and armed with a sharp, cutting lash; so expert are these fellows in their use, by constant practice, that they rarely fail of hitting either of the ten horses on any part of the body you may be pleased to point out to them, and as frequently in the same spot as you direct.

We hired for our journey a nice English Stanhope, with a horse called the Duke of Wellington, who steadily and safely brought us to Cape Town. The first portion of the road lay under rough overhanging cliffs, and through the deep sands of two or three small bays, where whale fisheries have been established; and if one can judge of their

success by the quantity of enormous bones which are everywhere strewed about, they must be amply repaid for their toil.

These bones seem almost entirely to supply the place of wood, (which latter they are obliged to bring from a considerable distance,) being used for rafters of houses and sheds, palings of gardens, for mile-stones, and in one instance I observed for the construction of a bridge. I was also told they occasionally used them for fuel.

Leaving the sea-side, about seven miles from Simon's Town, we stopped to bait the Duke at the house of a noted individual, one farmer Peck, whose good cheer is set forth in a string of happy rhymes, written in every European language, by a former clever and amusing commandant of the neighbouring garrison.

Circling the base of Table Mountain, we passed through Wynberg, where most of the opulent gentry reside during the summer, and a great many of the India Company's officers, who have come to the Cape for the benefit of their health, preferring this colony to England, in consequence of their being allowed by that most liberal Company to

enjoy their full allowance, which they would not be empowered to draw should they once set foot in Europe.

We overtook several wagons, during the day, laden with the products of the neighbouring districts; some of these had as many as eighteen, or even twenty bullocks attached to their strongly built carriages; thus, by their united force, being enabled either to draw them over, or tear them through the rough irregular tracts in the interior of the settlement.

The authorities have very judiciously allotted places where these enormous teams, upon being unyoked, are at liberty to graze; these spots being denoted to the stranger by the letters O. S. P., signifying "Out Span Place," painted on pieces of whalebone or wood in large letters; otherwise, were they at liberty to let them roam at their pleasure, they would become a nuisance to the farmers resident near to the capital of the colony; and should they be compelled, on the contrary, during their stay, to purchase provender for their cattle, the expense would sink deep into their profits, and perhaps deter them from attending the markets, to which

it is the anxious wish of the government to entice them to resort.

About one mile short of Cape Town, a beautiful view of Table Bay, the Lion's Head and Rump, and Table Mountain, was laid out in one majestic panorama before us. A light mist overhanging the mountain produced a curious effect, which had gained for itself the appropriate name of the Table-cloth.

Cape Town is of considerable extent, every street being built at right angles to the other; they are, however, too broad, which, in some respects, I consider, in a warm climate, to be rather disadvantageous than otherwise. In the first place, the width of the street increases the facility of entry to the scorching rays of the sun; and secondly, from the extent of front each house has to keep clean, their owners despair of so doing; in many countries, therefore, they are left to their fate, and become so filthy and dusty it is difficult to cross from one side to the other, in which remark some of the wide streets in Lisbon will fully bear out my statement. However, upon the score of dirt, very little fault can be found with Cape Town.

The gardens at Government house and the promenade are pleasant places of resort, but at this season of the year were very much burnt up. The Museum and public library well repay a visit. It is worthy of remark, that all strangers, of whatever class or colour they may be, are at liberty to peruse *in the library* any book it contains; a rule evidently framed under the auspices of a free and enlightened mind.

We paid a visit to the new pier, which the governor had lately caused to be erected, for which expense, I understand, he was much censured at home, but which outlay has proved most beneficial to the shipping; and well would it be if all functionaries could give so good an account of the public moneys entrusted to their care.

During our limited stay in the colony, it was impossible for us to visit much of the interior. We took the usual tour: a visit to Constantia, to the farms of Mr. Van Renman and Mr. Clote; we tasted the wines at both these houses, all of which were very delicious. The red Constantia (Pontac) pleased me the most. Previously to making this wine, the grapes are allowed so far to

ripen as almost to become raisins. We fortunately paid them a visit just at the period of their being ripe. The finest wine bears a remarkably high price, selling even in the colony for about 5*s*. or 6*s*. the bottle.

Great destruction is committed about this season by wandering dogs, which animal is particularly partial to that fruit; occasionally a tiger pays a visit to their neighbourhood, Mr. Clote having shot one about a year prior to our visit, within a few yards of his own door. Large game shooting is very difficult now to be had within a reasonable distance of Cape Town, the approaches of man into the desert having, as a natural cause, driven back the wild animals further into the interior. The officers on the frontier still continue to engage in these sometimes perilous encounters. Just prior to our arrival, a friend of my own had been rescued from the jaws of a lioness. The account which I received of it was, that he was in company with some of his brother officers, one of whom had been badly injured the day previously; they unfortunately fired when the lioness was at too great a distance, courage and presence of mind to retain your

fire being quite as requisite as a good aim and steady hand is necessary, upon its delivery. The shots enraged the beast, without instantly depriving her of life; making one bound forward, she was upon my friend in a second. Levelling their pieces at her head, the remainder of the party quickly dispatched her with the contents of the second barrels; raising Capt. L. from the ground, to their unspeakable joy and astonishment they found that, beyond some severe bruises, he had in no way suffered in his struggles to free himself from the deadly fangs of this powerful lady of the forest; fortunately for him she was very old, and had lost all her teeth, or most certainly, he never would have had the power of relating his own adventures.

Previous to our departure, we spent a few days at the governor's country house. The kind reception we met with very much enhanced the pleasure of this visit; everything was there carried on as in a country gentleman's house in England, of which it forcibly reminded us.

Having received an intimation from the admiral commanding at the station, that the ships of our squadron were ready for sea, we

again returned to Simon's Bay, and on the succeeding morning stood out of False Bay, once more into the open sea.

The evening prior to our departure, H.M.S. Dido arrived from England, but she brought us no particular news which we had not already received.

Many were there on board who said it would be a sad pity that we should get clear of the Cape of Storms, (which the old Portuguese navigators so appropriately called it,) without witnessing a proof of the terrible power of that element which continually lashes its base. Nor were they in this wish doomed to be disappointed; with a strong fair breeze we proceeded on for two days; during this time the sea-fowl which surrounded us became more numerous, and Mother .Cary's chickens, whose visits are considered the sure forerunners of heavy weather, continually glided over the waves. On the third day a terrific gale sprung up, before which we ran for forty-eight hours, but, thank God, without any injury from its effects; the sea ran mountains high, and at its abatement there was no one who felt the least inclination for any repetition.

We were now enabled to signalize the other ships to close, in order to ascertain if they had weathered the storm with equal good fortune. The first we spoke was the Apollo; she had split her maintop-sail, and thus got off very cheaply. The Sapphire had a sad tale to tell; an enormous wave had broke aboard her, amidships, making a clean sweep of her boats, spars, &c. &c., all their live stock, including sheep and pigs, with which, under the expectation of so long a voyage, she had been plentifully stored; her bulwarks were stove in and cleared away; and, worse than all, two poor fellows, the serjeant-major of the troops and a marine, hurried to their everlasting home amidst the wreck. This shocking occurrence gave us infinite distress, and we determined, as soon as the weather would allow, to alleviate their present difficulties, by subscribing something from our stock of living animals, for the benefit of our more unfortunate neighbours, and for which, no doubt, they would have been very thankful. On the following day, much to the chagrin of all parties, a thick fog set in, and neither of the ships were

discernible; we fired repeated signals, but all without effect.*

On the 9th of April, we made St. Paul's—one of two small islands, the other being named Amsterdam—situated in the very centre of the South Indian Ocean. I believe them to be further removed from any other known habitation of man in the world. Seldom visited, except by whalers, these inhospitable rocks, without a single harbour, lie precisely in the track of all ships bound to New South Wales, from the westward, standing ready to hurry into destruction all who may chance to be so unlucky as to run upon them, either by carelessness or false reckoning.

* A classification of the wind has been latterly adopted in the R.N., by which its force is readily described upon paper. The figures from 0 to 12 progressively denote from a perfect calm, the increase to a hurricane; and, from constant practice, the officers seldom materially differ in their opinion with regard to the number which should be inserted in the log. In this instance the wind was represented by the number 10. They have, moreover, adopted a combination of many letters of the alphabet to express more readily the state of the weather. These two modes abridge the necessity of the old method of giving a lengthy description, and can be understood fully at a glance by any one accustomed to inspecting a ship's log.

How deeply, then, ought we to feel indebted to those praiseworthy individuals who so nobly sacrifice both time and fortune in scientific pursuits, since without the aid of the chronometer and sextant, no one could navigate with such perfect confidence these trackless paths. In the present instance, our last rating, at the Cape, had been so correct that we were not three miles out in our longitude.

On the 25th of April, we passed within hail of two American whalers, one of which had been two years on her present cruise, and had made, during that time, 300 barrels of oil. On the same evening, a great number of sperm whales were discovered spouting near to our ship, but darkness coming on, we were not sufficiently fortunate as to witness the gigantic sport of harpooning them, for which our neighbours were evidently making preparations. From the time of our leaving St. Paul's, we experienced continual fair weather, with strong and favourable breezes, until the 27th of April, on which day we passed Christmas Island, and on the following afternoon we

were within the Straits of Sunda, between Prince's Island and Java Head.

The extreme beauty of the Island of Java I had often heard extolled, but I must confess I was altogether unprepared for such a magnificent country as it appeared to be. Tropical trees and shrubs heaped upon each other in boundless luxuriance, and every inch of land clothed with such fertility as would entirely bewilder the senses of many a lover of horticulture, in a soil where nature is less profuse, but where science and labour happily overcome obstacles, which, were they to exist in these semi-barbarian countries, would be reckoned quite insurmountable.

An officer being sent on shore to a small town called Anjeer, I availed myself of the proffered opportunity of landing with him; we had a row of about twelve miles, under a burning sun, but were fully repaid for our trouble by the novelty of everything we saw around us. On approaching the shore, we met with a great number of small canoes fishing, these were precisely similar to those described in Lord Anson's voyage, used by the people of the Laccadive Islands, on the coast of Malabar—each being fitted on one

side, with an outrigger, or sort of weather-board, which enables these tiny craft to carry an enormous press of canvas, without inconvenience, as one man sitting on the outer part of this lever increases considerably the resistance to the action of the wind upon their sail, and by thus causing them to retain an even keel, they make comparatively little leeway; when desirous of tacking, they contrive this movement by a half-ware, the bow becoming the stern—the stern the bow, alternately, at each successive tack; in the performance of this, there is but little difficulty, as they are shaped like our whale boats, sharp at both ends, and being devoid of rudder, are steered either with an oar or paddle. At first sight, these boats have a most extraordinary appearance, for until one is made aware how the men are supported, they appear to walk upon the water, beside their boats.

We found three ships in the roadstead, one bound to China, with stores for the expedition; a second bound to the Mauritius, with Chinese labourers, who devote a certain number of years to the arduous culture of the sugar cane in that colony, and when

On Stone by B. Clayton

Drawn by Captain Cunyngham

AN INDIAN OUT-RIGGER CANOE, STRAIGHTS OF SUNDA.

Saunders & Otley, Conduit St.

they consider they have collected together a sufficiency to enable them to enjoy the remainder of their lives in ease and to purchase the scanty comforts which their very frugal habits bid them demand, they take the first opportunity of returning to the Presidency of Sincapore, where the Chinese form a considerable portion of the colony, and where they enjoy more freedom and liberty than in their own much boasted Celestial Empire, from which they, by the act of quitting, have expatriated themselves, their return rendering them amenable to capital punishment, fearing lest they should disseminate among their ignorant countrymen some few secrets regarding civil rights, &c., the very mention of which things is a most treasonable offence in that autocratical government.

Regarding the third ship there was a curious story afloat. It appeared she was an English vessel, laden with sugar—that a quarrel had taken place between the captain and crew, on their way to Europe from Batavia, fire-arms had been resorted to, that her commander, and a female passenger, and two boys, had disappeared, a number of

the men were badly wounded; in short, the story related to me by the Dutch Governor was wrapped in mystery, but murder and bloodshed seem to be its predominant features. She had five feet of water in her hold, probably having been scuttled, in hopes of thus sinking her, and thereby hiding all traces of some nefarious deed which evidently had been committed.

We remained but one hour on shore, during which time we were enabled to take only a superficial view of the place. I observed two very neat buildings—a barrack and a chapel. The burgomaster's house was the coolest and most refreshing spot I had been in for many a day; with these three exceptions, the town is composed of small houses, neatly built of bamboo, and covered with the large leaves of the palm-tree, each having a verandah, under which their inmates enjoy the cool and delicious sea-breeze, which generally sets, in every afternoon.

We purchased a number of capons, for which this island is famous, and green turtle, both at a ridiculously low price; for one of the latter, weighing about 105 pounds, I

paid but three shillings, and was laughed at by the burgomaster for being so imposed upon.

A Dutch gentleman was on the point of starting to Batavia, the chief town in the island, about eighty English miles distant, and to which place, I was informed, there was a good road; his palanquin, carried by four bearers, consisted of an oblong cage of bamboo, with blinds on either side; it was supported on their shoulders by a long pole of the same wood, when in motion the pliancy of which adds greatly to the comfort of the inmate.

A fresh breeze springing up, and a few guns from our ship signifying the impatience of our commodore, we were thus soon reluctantly obliged to return on board.

CHAPTER IV.

China Sea—Straits of Banca—Nanka Island—Fred Hendrich—Sincapore—Shipping in the road—Landing at Sincapore—Government house—The punka—Thugs—Opium smoking—Joss-house—Chinaman's tail—Peons—Beetle-nut—Chewing beetle-nut—Cochin-Chinese junk—Piracy—Cock fighting—Siamese.

BOTH entrances from Java into the China Sea are justly reckoned difficult and dangerous, by reason of the strong and irregular tides, the shallowness of the water, and the numerous coral reefs with which these seas abound.

Some years since, H. M. S. Alceste, on her return from China with Lord Amherst, ran upon some sunken rocks which now bear her name, and was lost. The crew succeeded in landing a portion of her pro-

visions, stores, and arms, upon a neighbouring island, and immediately erected a small fort to guard themselves from any sudden attack of the Malay pirates, who collect around any ill-fated ship, as the vultures near the dying deer. Ten days after, on the arrival of a vessel from Batavia, to which place Lord Amherst had proceeded, they were found preparing themselves to resist the united attack of the crews of about eighty Malay proas, their ship having been burnt by these scoundrels to the water's edge. Had not this timely succour arrived, the whole would doubtless have soon fallen a sacrifice to the formidable numbers of the relentless savages.

Our captain preferred taking the Straits of Banca, which was nervous work for one who had so weighty a charge upon his hands. We frequently ran for miles together in four or four and a quarter fathoms of water, the ship drawing within fifteen inches of four fathoms.

The appearance of this island from the sea presents one continued face of mangrove jungle, with but three or four hills to break the monotony of the landscape. The Dutch

have many settlements on it, and, I believe, claim the whole of it. It is very valuable to them on account of the quantity of tin it produces, which is of a very superior quality, containing a large proportion of silver; moreover, the ease with which it is obtained very much decreases the expense of collecting it. It is dug from a thin alluvial soil at the surface of the earth, from which it is separated by the simple process of washing. The Dutch retain a considerably military force in these colonies; and, singular enough, a large proportion of their troops are *Chinese*, who, under European instruction, and with good arms, make excellent soldiers. Their principal object is to keep in check the Malays, who would otherwise very soon neutralize all their efforts at civilization, by their piratical and marauding propensities.

Being short of water, we anchored at a small island called Nanka, on which we found a most delicious stream.

The exuberance of the vegetation in this climate, where winter is known but as a name, is almost beyond belief. A towel being left to dry upon a bank, in four hours,

it was discovered that the grass had actually grown through it one inch in length. This sounds very like a traveller's tale; if any one doubts it, let him go to Nanka, to convince himself of the fact.

This island, a few weeks subsequent to our visit was the scene of a curious event, two duels having been fought in this lonely spot by some English officers, who, not content with the chance they might have of falling in China—if not by the matchlocks of his imperial majesty's troops, by the far more destructive hand of disease—chose to run the risks of their lives on the shores of Nanka; it originated in some slight difference of opinion which had taken place on the voyage.

On the morning of the 6th, we found the tide was setting us very strong to the north, directly upon a rock called the Fred Hendrich, which, by a few fathoms only, we escaped running foul of. Having cleared this shoal, it was with no small pleasure we entered the China seas, which we had every reason to suppose we should for many months inhabit.

A Sumatra squall, a moderate species of

typhoon, saluted our arrival, and gave us a presage of what we might occasionally expect to meet with, in these fickle waters.

Near the Sumatra coast, we chanced to observe some sea-snakes—not quite so terrific in size as the sea-serpents sometimes encountered in the vasty deep by our friend Jonathan. These, from our deck, appeared to be about five or six feet long, of a brownish yellow colour, and, until they were disturbed by the vessel, were generally coiled up, basking in the sun, at the surface of the water.

Some of them are reckoned very venomous, their bite causing almost instantaneous death. A few years since, an officer on board H. M. S. Algerine, died in less than half an hour, from the effects of a bite in his hand, in spite of all the remedies that were instantly applied by the medical officer on board.

On Wednesday the 11th of May, we came in sight of a small rock, very aptly styled, "La Pietra Bianca," which lies midway between the most southern promontory of the Malay Peninsula and the island of Bin-

tang, at the commencement of the Straits of Sincapore. For the last ten days our progress had been unusually slow, being constantly obliged to come to anchor, on account of the strong contrary tides and currents, and the want of steady breezes of wind. This is the common complaint of those who navigate these straits. The almost insupportable heat of the weather rendering these delays a thousand times more tedious and irksome.

At last, on the 12th of May, we arrived in Sincapore Roads; thus completing our visit to all four quarters of the globe, within five months. Our anchor had scarce touched bottom, ere we received a pressing invitation from his excellency the governor to make his house our home during the time we should remain in that presidency. It is superfluous to say his kindness was readily accepted, and we determined to avail ourselves of it on the following morning. Boats containing every species of tropical fruit, and various Asiatic luxuries, now crowded around the ship; these were to be purchased at ridiculously small prices—three,

sometimes four magnificent pines being offered for one penny. Indeed, so cheap are they, that the captains of smart men of war constantly use them for bringing their decks to a fine whiteness.

The Mangustein and Durian fruits, which rival in celebrity the fresh dates of Africa, were unfortunately not then in season. They are only to be procured, in anything like perfection, in the Malacca Straits; and from their rarity, and the utter impossibility of transporting them to any distance, they are doubly prized.

The roadstead was studded with shipping. Two or three men of war, and half a dozen transports, were completing their stores and water, under orders, equally with ourselves, to proceed to Hong-Kong. Besides these, and a vast number of European merchantmen and a few opium clippers, there were a prodigious number of junks from Cochin-China and Siam, awaiting the southerly monsoon, which wind was expected daily to set in, in order to return to their native ports. On the bows of each of these were painted a peculiar pair of goggle eyes; for as the China-

men aptly observe—"Suppose no hab eye, massa, how can see?"

As night came on, the town assumed a very gay aspect; that part, which I subsequently ascertained was inhabited by the Chinese, appeared one blaze of light; their joss-house, splendidly illuminated, being the most conspicuous object.

On the following day, we landed under a salute of eleven guns from the Belle-Isle,

and were received on shore with the same honours, palanquins having been provided to take us to the Government House. These are little, low, four-wheeled carriages (*vis-a-vis*) drawn by one horse, and fitted all round with Venetian blinds, which have the double advantage of excluding the sun and of admitting a free current of air. The driver, a Malay boy, runs by the side of the horse, with whose pace he never seems to have the slightest difficulty in keeping up. He frequently carries a large horse-hair tail, which he continually uses to brush away any flies or reptiles, which may annoy the animal, encouraging him to his work by his voice only. Where the roads are good, these palanquins are much to be preferred to doolies, or any other description of vehicle carried by men, having the advantage, in this case, of the society of a friend, and also that of proceeding at a much more rapid pace.

The Government House is situated on the top of a slight eminence completely overlooking the town, and, from being the highest spot in the neighbourhood, is reckoned extremely healthy; although, indeed,

the whole settlement has acquired, and I have no doubt deservedly, a name for salubrity; the houses, too, being both large and airy. From the low prices at which provisions can be purchased and service obtained, many luxuries can be procured, which greatly conduce both to the health, as well as the bodily comforts of those who are foreign to the soil.

No one thing, perhaps, strikes a stranger so forcibly at his first arrival in India, or one of the Company's dependencies, as the apparently luxurious life the Europeans enjoy, and perhaps no feeling dies away so quickly. It is, indeed, a change, after being accustomed to one small cabin for four or five months—even that, perhaps, shared by a friend or acquaintance, to find oneself, roaming through these lofty saloons, which, upon the hottest day, are not without a delicious breeze, given by the never-ceasing motion of the punka. Everything so quiet and soothing; the servants, though ever so numerous, stealing through the apartments without noise and confusion, and at the magic words, "Qui hi?" (Who waits?) though spoken at the lowest pitch

of the voice, one or more instantly appear, ready to hear your commands. Attached to each sleeping apartment was a bath-room, a necessary comfort in this climate. On the beds were very hard mattresses, covered with china mats; thus rendering them deliciously cool. A glass window is unknown, the entire house, on every side, being fitted with Venetian blinds.

Each day, at two, a tiffin was served up, after which we read, &c., until five, at which time we dressed. The palanquins were then in attendance; we drove until seven, which was the hour for dinner. It would be superfluous to detail a long list of Eastern dishes; suffice it to say, everything was the very best, combining the greatest luxury with true comfort and genuine hospitality. The meal being concluded, a venerable Mussulman handed a magnificent and highly scented hookah to the governor.

Sincapore is one of the most rising colonies under the British flag. Little more than twenty years since, it was a mass of jungle, where the savage tiger roamed, the lord of the soil; now, elegant houses and gardens are to be seen in all directions, for

here, unlike many countries within the tropics, scarce three days ever elapse without the most refreshing showers, which constantly renew the vegetation. In the few years since its first occupation, it has risen in wealth and opulence far surpassing any town on record in so brief a period; this is chiefly owing to its situation. Placed as it is on the extremity of the Malay peninsula, it is in the track of all ships bound from India to China, and but a few miles out of the direct course either from England or New South Wales. The last few years, in consequence of our *misunderstanding* with the Chinese government, we having had a large fleet and army in these seas, the arrival and departure of shipping has been greatly increased; of this, as you may readily imagine, they have not been idle in availing themselves for the purpose of making money, charging cent. per cent. upon all European supplies; property in the neighbourhood of the town is consequently becoming very valuable. One small piece of mango marsh, undrained, was pointed out to me, about two acres, which had been purchased from the government, a few days previously, for nearly

2000*l.* sterling. Extensive plantations have been made, near the town, of the nutmeg, which has hitherto yielded a very large return; but I should be inclined to think that, ere long, when all those now planted come into full bearing, (a period of about fifteen years from the date of first clearing the land and planting the shrub,) the market will be overstocked, and, as a natural result, a great diminution in the value of that article.

Large bodies of convicts, from the continent of British India, are sent here to be employed in the public works. The whole of these have been parties concerned in the crime of murder, the principals alone having suffered capital punishment. Many amongst them were pointed out to me as having formerly been in the fraternity of *Thugs* — a class of people who, horrible to relate, are to be met with, in every part of India, and whose religious profession is murder, concerning whom such an interesting book appeared a few years since, under the disguise of a novel, but which, I am assured, contained little else than facts. Men of the highest caste may be observed

working on the roads, which degradation is considered by many infinitely worse than death itself.

Opium smoking is carried on at Sincapore in unrestrained liberty, the moral conduct of individuals being more in their own keeping than is considered consistent with propriety in the paternal kingdom. Here the unfortunate victims of this degrading vice may be seen undergoing all the different stages consequent upon the use of this pernicious drug. Some, totally bereft of their senses, wallowing, like beasts of the field, in filth; whilst others, not yet arrived at that stage of listless inactivity, are throwing their emaciated bodies into the contortions of maniacs, revelling with each other.*

During our stay I took the opportunity of visiting their temple, commonly called

* "The drug is of three different kinds—*Patna*, *Malwa*, and *Benares*, and is sent from India in balls of a dark-brown colour of different sizes. The Chinese mix it, previous to use, with other substances, and it then resembles a glutinous paste; the smallest quantity, about the size of a barleycorn, is then laid upon a small hole, no bigger than a pin's head, in the bowl of the pipe; heat is then applied, and after a few whiffs that pipe is finished; a beginner rarely exceeds one, or, at most, two pipes per day, but an old hand can manage a much larger number."

joss-house, which was very unique, and which I was informed was as handsome as any in the second-rate towns in the Chinese empire, from which opinion I am not inclined to differ, after the frequent opportunities I subsequently had of testing it. The carving, both upon the stone and woodwork, was well executed. The porcelain figures of men, dragons, &c., with which they delight to adorn their religious buildings, were finished in a style which far exceeded my expectations.

There were a number of altars, and presiding at each, a due complement of gods and demons, all of whom seemed to be largely supplied with offerings of the good things of this world, in the shape of tea, coffee, sugar, &c., set out in handsome China bowls. The attendant priests were rather flattered at our tasting these dainties, and at our lighting our cigars at the holy fires, which were kept burning opposite each of the principal gods; they moreover invited us to taste of the dishes which had been prepared for their own meal, many of which were voted very good, though con-

siderable difficulty was experienced in the use of the chop-stick.

The dress of the priests differed but little from that of the rest of the community, their great distinction consisting in their wearing no tail, which, for a Chinese of any other class to be devoid of, would be considered the highest reproach. One amongst many of their customs, totally at variance with our own, is that of choosing their priests from the dregs, rather than from among the highest class, of society. In the outer court of the building were to be seen a number of filthy wretches beseeching charity, such as are to be observed in catholic countries, just without the doors of most places of religious worship. These poor creatures were engaged in pastimes, such as cards, &c., no doubt very amusing to them, but little suited, according to our ideas of propriety, with the place they were in.

A Chinaman's love for his tail is proverbial, and it is truly amusing to see the pains and trouble they take concerning them. Most of them are dressed and plaited with singular neatness and care, and

are of such a length, that they sweep the ground when walking. Those, however, who are not sufficiently fortunate, as naturally to possess a very handsome appendage, borrow a portion from their barbers; and should it get disengaged from his head, the owner has to bear the same ridicule as an unfortunate dandy does, who, in Europe, by ill luck, should chance to lose his wig. The front portion of the head is very carefully shaved, for which purpose they make use of a curious and very peculiar description of razor, resembling in miniature a butcher's chopper. This love of their tails produces a very easy method of restoring order and restraining personal violence, when any cause of dissension or dispute may arise among them. The *peons*, or government police, catching some half-dozen of the crowd by these handy ornaments, deliver them over to one of their force, who, with a drawn sword, holds them in check, threatening, upon the slightest unruly movement, to *rasè* their honourable appendages. The intense love for their old friend and companion, that has grown with their growth, speedily overcomes their pas-

sions, and rather than run the chance of parting company, they submit with patience and resignation to the dictates of the authorities.

On my return from the joss-house, seeing a dwelling-house gaily decorated with pieces of gaudy coloured silk, &c., lamps and lights, I entered, and discovered a Chinese wedding to be going forward. Both bride and bridegroom were decked out in the richest of silks; and at the moment of my entry, the attendant relatives were busily employed, cramming into their mouths a preparation of beetle-nut until they were nearly choked, this being a portion of the ceremony which on no account is to be neglected. The lady was a Malay, who are almost the only wives the Chinese are here able to procure; for although there were, at the time I mention, between ten and twelve thousand Chinamen at the settlement, I was given to understand there were but two Chinese women; these had been taken to London some years since, for the purpose of exhibiting their feet, and had returned thus far towards their native country, the nearest point to which they could then approach, as the jealousy of the government is so

great, that it forbids all its subjects from leaving China to visit foreign soils, more especially women; and there could not be a shadow of a doubt, that, were they to have ventured home, their lives would have paid the penalty of their rashness.

Chewing beetle-nut is a filthy habit, common to all the lower order of Chinese at Sincapore, and tends to give them, about the lower portion of the face, a most disgusting appearance; their teeth, in consequence, become dyed jet black, as also the whole inside of the mouth, from each corner of which is constantly flowing a filthy saliva, resembling blood in colour, and would lead a stranger to suppose he had dropped among a race of cannibals in the midst of their diabolical orgies.

Some of the officers attached to our expedition proceeded a short distance inland, up a river into the jungle; they shot a number of flying bats, squirrels, monkeys, &c., but did not encounter any more ferocious denizens of the forest. The tigers are, however, stated to be very numerous; but, from the density of the jungle, it is both dangerous and, indeed, almost impossible to

destroy them. They, at different periods, have carried off a considerable number of labourers, who have been employed by private speculation in clearing the island; and having thus obtained a taste for human blood, are now much more dangerous neighbours than before they had become, what is technically called, man-eaters.

On the evening prior to our departure, a brig arrived from New South Wales, towing in a Cochin-Chinese junk, which had been attacked in the straits, a few days previously, by some Malay proas, and which, having been relieved of everything valuable in her, had been abandoned; the greater portion of the crew had been murdered by these ruffians, and the remainder so severely maltreated, as to be incapable of managing their craft: an endeavour had been made to scuttle her, which only failed by their speedy retreat, upon seeing an European vessel heave in sight. These savages, armed with the terrible kriis, are in the constant habit of attacking and plundering the coasting merchantmen, which they the more readily make a prey of, from the circumstance of both the Siam and Cochin-

Chinese government forbidding her merchantmen from being armed.

I was also informed that many Chinese settlers instigated these daring acts of piracy, giving information regarding the sailing of the junks, and also becoming the means of their disposing of their ill-gotten plunder. It is needless to add, that every means in the power of an active government is resorted to for the discovery of these horrible proceedings.

The Malays, the aboriginals of these straits, may be reckoned, in comparison with the more recent settlers, a very indolent race of people, preferring the precarious profits of fishing, &c., to the more certain gain attendant upon daily labour. As to the means of procuring their wants, though few, they have but little scruple, and from their own ignorance, frequently become the dupes of their more wily and cunning neighbours. Like all semi-barbarians, they are greatly addicted to the use of spirituous liquors and tobacco, which they indulge in to the greatest excess, whenever they are able to procure them: they are particularly partial to snuff, but make use of it in a way

totally differing to European fashion and custom, invariably applying it to the tongue and gums, in preference to the nose. It would be superfluous to make a comment upon this mode of exercising a luxury—"Chacun à son gout."

Cock-fighting, once so favourite a pastime, in many parts of the western world, was lately an amusement highly cherished by the inhabitants, bordering upon the straits of Malacca. Sanctioned by our government, a large sum of money was annually collected, by licensing houses where this cruel recreation was carried on.

The cocks, which at the present day present specimens of the finest class, were then trained much in the same way as in Europe, but were armed, in the place of a spur, with a broad flat blade, resembling their own favourite weapon—the kriis; with these they were enabled to inflict frightful wounds, without being of so deadly a nature as with the more pointed instrument in use in our country; the battle was thus more doubtful and bloody, and of much longer duration.

The traders from Cochin-China and Siam,

dreadfully addicted to gambling, wagered immense sums, both of their own and of their employers, upon the results of these contests; their losses on these occasions frequently driving them to the use of opium, as a solace from care and mental suffering, while the Malays, maddened by bad fortune, losing all command over themselves and their actions, committed the most extravagant excesses, stabbing and maiming all whom chance threw in their way, during which fits of excitement they were described as having "run-a-muck"—an expression not unfamiliar now in our own country, but which is derived from the Malay tongue.

Government is now making the most strenuous endeavours to put a final stop to a propensity tending to such disastrous results, and which, particularly in such a savage state of society, is too apt to be the case.

CHAPTER V.

China Sea—The Anambas—St. John's Island—Hong-Kong—The barracks and markets—Hong-Kong—Chinese—Chinese fight—Police—Tytam Bay—Chapoo—My own opinions.

On the 19th of May, we were again fairly launched on the China Sea. Prior to our departure, both the Apollo and Sapphire, whom we had parted from a few days after the bad weather we experienced near the Cape, hove in sight; they had been detained thus long behind us, in consequence of light and variable winds.

We again passed that solitary rock, Pietra Bianca: we heard there was an intention of erecting on this dangerous spot a light-house, to be dedicated to the memory of

Captain Horsburgh. No better means could have been devised of shewing respect and gratitude to one who used such unremitting exertions in the surveys of those seas, and collecting information for the benefit of future navigators. A monument, which would have the twofold advantage of combining usefulness with ornament, and would be a lasting tribute to his memory, so long as civilization increased and trade prospered in these distant regions of the globe.

On the 27th of May, having passed a nest of islands called the Anambas, partially inhabited, and having crossed the gulf of Siam, we made the Bombay shoal, one of a group of rocks called the Paracels, lying opposite to the coast of Cochin-China; we passed between this and the Maclesfield Bank. These are very extensive coral reefs, dangerous, principally by reason of the great uncertainty that exists in regard to their growth, and the consequent diminution yearly of the water upon them, no doubt existing that they are becoming daily more extensive. These formations are the labours of an insect not much bigger than an ant,

which, with surprising perseverance, raises structures beneath the waters, as stupendous as the Pyramids, and possibly far more lasting.

On the morning of the 1st of June we found ourselves within three or four miles of the island of St. John, which lies within ten of the main land, in the southern province of China, called Wang-Tung, and about thirty miles to the west of the great Ladrones; we were surrounded by an innumerable host of small fishing-boats. The N.E. monsoon was still blowing in all its accustomed freshness, against which we had to contend for the two succeeding days. When near to the Ladrones, a man, whom we had every reason to suppose an efficient pilot, presenting himself, we took him on board; we were all much pleased with the boat in which he came, the hull of which I have heard likened, and think the simile a very good one, to the one-half of an almond shell; and what between its mat-sails and singular looking crew, was sufficient evidence of our being far from our own native land.

The pilot, who seemed an intelligent fellow and spoke a *little* English, said that

our great "Foreign Eye" was still at Hong-Kong, which gave us satisfaction, as we were anxious to see the Plenipotentiary, and were fearful he might have already proceeded northward.

Hong-Kong and its adjacent island reminded me forcibly of the Grecian Archipelago, possessing the same rocky appearance, and springing out of the water in the same fantastic shapes. On our near approach to the roadstead, we perceived it to be crowded with shipping—the Blenheim, a magnificent seventy-four, being the most conspicuous object; we very soon dropped our anchor in the midst of them. On the morning after our arrival, we paid our respects to his Excellency, who received us with that open-hearted kindness and affability inseparable from him. The details which we received from himself and suite, relative to the many incidents which had occurred to them, during the course of the war, were most interesting, and doubly so to us, who were so soon to take an active part in the proceedings.

We then visited different portions of the town, barracks, markets, &c. Perhaps no

place in the history of ages can boast of such a rapid rise as the town of Hong-Kong. In August, 1841, not one single house was yet built, not a portion of the brush-wood had been cleared away from this desolate spot. By June, 1842, the town was considerably more than two miles long, containing store-houses and shops, here called "Godowns," in which almost every article either Eastern or European could be procured, and most of them, at not very unreasonable prices.

This building mania received a check from the government refusing all further grants of land, until they should receive a sanction from home, for so doing, as it yet remained to be proved whether or no it would be politic in us to retain this island; a subject upon which many conversant with the state of affairs materially differed in opinion.

It struck me at that time, and circumstances have since borne me out, that we should never again relinquish this little spot; for however adverse our government might be to any territorial aggrandizement, it seemed perfectly requisite for us to possess some

portion of land, neighbouring the continent, where our own laws should be enforced, free from the chicanery and grasping insolence of the mandarins, and which, in case of any future trouble, might act as a place of refuge to our shipping, and a secure retreat to our authorities, until such force should arrive as would compel the Chinese authorities to respect the laws of civilized nations.

The town already boasted of 15,000 inhabitants, and it was almost impossible to prevent the people from the opposite coast from flocking to us, for the double purpose of making money at our expense, and escaping the wrath of the mandarins, who never neglected an opportunity of visiting severely upon themselves and families, the dreadful offence of giving countenance to the foreign barbarians. Amongst other places, I was attracted by a large crowd to the police-office; here, exposed upon a set of triangles, were a pair of tails, which had just been shorn from the heads of some rascally fellows, who had been caught in the act of robbery. This is almost the only punishment inflicted upon them, the loss of these appendages, as I have before mentioned,

being considered by them the heaviest and weightiest one, short of death itself, that can be inflicted on them.

The personal appearance of the Chinese themselves, as well as their language and manners, cannot fail to strike the stranger with the conviction of how totally different they are from the nations of the West—every action, every word, being at variance, as day is from night, with our own. One of the most amusing scenes which I ever witnessed was from the deck of our ship; it was a quarrel amongst the boatmen who surrounded her with vegetables, &c., for sale. One unfortunate boat having incurred the displeasure of the rest by offering its wares at a reduced price, was in consequence attacked by them *en masse*. At first they commenced by pelting the owner with pears, eggs, and the like missiles; their fury increased in consequence of some opprobrious epithets which were applied to them; they next sent a volley of china-plates, dishes, &c., such as many a fair lady would have been envied the possession of; these either smashed about their ears or sank in the water. They were all soon

devoid of missiles, and, the boats coming into closer contact, the stronger party boarded the weaker, attacking them with long bamboo poles, armed with sharp iron points, with which they are all provided, to defend themselves from the attacks of the pirates who infest this coast. The unfortunate crew thought it high time to decamp, and sought shelter in the water; the boat being now deserted, with the exception of one poor woman, it was reckoned the fair booty of the victors, who, jumping on board, without any hesitation, thrust their long spears into the body of the poor creature, wounding her in many places.

Matters having arrived at such a desperate stage, one of the ships' boats was sent to stop the disturbance, and render assistance to the sufferers, which she effectually did in a very few minutes; all the remaining ones taking to flight, as fast as their oars could carry them, for fear of the consequence, when called up before the police, and the possible—nay, probable—loss of the tails of their owners.

Having completed our water and provisions with the utmost despatch, we once

again weighed anchor, and stood out of the harbour, our destination being Chusan, where we expected to receive further instructions, directing us at what point we were to join the head-quarters of the expedition. We sailed in company with H.M.S. Rattlesnake, the master of whom, from having previously navigated the Yellow Sea, was well acquainted with its treacherous currents and muddy waters; we were very glad, therefore, to have him in our company. The south-west monsoon had just set in, and this strong favourable breeze sped us merrily on our way; we caught a glimpse, *en passant*, of the new barrack erecting at Check-choo, near Tytam Bay, on the south side of Hong-Kong island, and in three days more found ourselves close to Chapel Island, near Amoy; here we saw H.M.S. Cambrian, running into that harbour, and having exchanged signals with her, we passed on.

The bluff headland of Formosa next rose above the ocean, which we quickly glided past, every hour bringing us nearer to the scene of strife and warfare. Not half fast enough was our voyage, for the eager ambi-

tion of many a young hero on board, how many of whom, alas! within a few short months were cast into the muddy waters of Yang-tse-Kiang, victims to deadly fevers, which proved a far more mortal foe and scourge in our ranks than the weapons of the fiercest Tartars. The day previous to our leaving Hong-Kong, news had arrived from the north of another town having yielded to our arms; this was Chapoo, equally the key to the city of Hang-Chow, which Chinhae was to Ning-Po; being convinced myself that a peace would soon be made, I was the more anxious to get on, as I was greatly afraid that even after coming so long a distance, my sword was doomed never to be drawn.

We moreover received intimation that it was the intention of the commander-in-chief immediately to push on to the Yang-tse-Kiang, and we trusted that we should yet be in time to share in the glory of the capture of Woosung, which we were given to understand it was his intention to attack forthwith.

It had been my intention here to have introduced a sketch of what had taken place

in China, from the commencement of the war until the period of our joining the head-quarters of the army—indeed, I had already devoted some idle hours to writing down the opinions which I had formed upon the subject, as well as a slight detail of these proceedings. On my arrival, however, in England, I found that in many valuable works, which had already appeared before the public, I had in a great measure been forestalled. I therefore determined to confine myself to those scenes alone which came actually under my immediate view, rather than weary my readers with what had been already told, not only with greater accuracy in detail, but with more pleasing language than I feel I have the power to assume.

CHAPTER VI.

Chusan Archipelago — Fishing-boats — Icè-houses — The soldier rescued — St. Helen's Bay — Cultivation of Chusan—Inner harbour of Chusan—Chinese junk—Captain of the junk—Prognosticates the destruction of the fleet — Joss-house near the harbour — Brass carronade—Defences of the city—Town of Tinghai—Queen of Heaven—Chinese gong and bell—Gateway of Confusion Temple—Chinese ladies' feet—English ladies' waists.

On the evening of the 24th of June, we discovered ourselves to be within the Chusan Archipelago. A thick fog, which had for the two preceding days rendered our navigation both difficult and dangerous, having cleared away, we saw a-head of us a small island called Starboard Jack—such description of names having been given

by the early European navigators to the headlands and islands, (until latterly,) so little frequented in these waters. This plan was generally adopted in consequence of the difficulty experienced both in pronouncing and remembering the Chinese names, so utterly different do they sound, from any words we are accustomed to utter, and it has been very properly continued. The whole of the following day we threaded our way, through passages quite narrow enough for our gigantic ship, the water varying in depth, but, generally, not being more than from five to ten fathoms deep.

These islands and promontories were densely inhabited, and cultivated to the very summit; but no buildings of a military nature could we anywhere discover, either to defend their coast against foreign aggression, or to shelter and protect the inhabitants from the lawless depredations of the evil-disposed among their own countrymen; although we had pretty accurate information that piratical cruising junks were now very numerous, particularly infesting the nooks and corners so appropriately placed for these nefarious purposes all over this archipelago.

So great has been the idea of tranquillity and order for many years, that the few fortresses they at one time possessed have fallen into decay, and probably would never have been remodelled, or in any way restored, had not the unhappy differences with Great Britain roused them to a sense of their undefended situation, shewing them, how open their coast and harbours were to the sudden assault even of a comparatively small force, under any bold adventurer, whom the idea of plunder should lead to make the attempt.

The fleet of fishing-boats were as numerous as we had formerly seen them at St. John's Island, fish being one of their staple articles of consumption. Most of the boats go provided with large quantities of ice, which they pack around the fish as soon as they are caught, thus being enabled to send them a considerable distance into the interior, and with less risk of their being spoiled, prior to their arrival at the place of their destination. At almost all the towns near the sea-coast which were occupied by our troops, large depots of ice were discovered, which you will readily

imagine was looked upon by us all as a very great prize. The inhabitants themselves appear to make no other use of it whatever than that which I have just mentioned, and seemed to be amusingly surprised at the great avidity with which we sought it, either to cool our wine or water, during the burning heat of summer. Among other contrarieties, they are accustomed in the hottest weather to partake of all their liquors warm; and it would be considered the worst of etiquette, as in Italy is so common, to offer a stranger a glass of iced water, the proper civility being, that of handing it to him lukewarm.

A friend told me, that the ice-houses around Ningpo, and especially on the banks of the river between that city and Chin-hae, are beyond calculation. They are built above-ground, and generally upon a platform of earth raised so as to be above the level of the surrounding fields. Upon such a mound, a bamboo frame is thrown, which is well and closely thatched with paddy straw. The ice is collected in tanks or ponds, which the proprietors of the ice-houses take care to keep duly filled with water in

the winter season. When the ice is of a sufficient thickness they collect it, and as it is brought in, each layer is covered over with dry straw, and in this manner the ice is preserved during the whole summer. Each house has its own drain to draw off the water formed by the melting ice.

The article is not used for private consumption, but solely as an antiseptic for flesh and fish during the heats of summer. The inhabitants know nothing of the mode of cooling their liquids, except as they have observed foreigners use it for that purpose, and then they are very willing to retail it to them at the rate of from eighty to one hundred cash per bucket—a charge by no means excessive during the dog-days. In places like Foochow-foo, the seat of Chinese luxury, ice is occasionally used to cool fruits, sweetmeats, &c.

Most boats are provided with a quantity of salt, having with them thereby the means of curing the produce of their toils as soon as they have succeeded in entrapping them, causing therefore less anxiety in regard to a speedy return into harbour, to this provident race of people.

The stakes for supporting their nets may be seen miles from the land in these shallow seas; the never-failing bamboo being used to buoy them in the water, these proved sometimes excessively inconvenient to our steamers, being caught up in the paddle-wheels, to the injury of the machinery and sure destruction to the property of these poor but hardy fishermen.

As we were at anchor near Gough's island, a soldier threw himself overboard in a fit of temporary derangement, the current at the time running past the vessel nearly three knots per hour. Without deliberation, a courageous young officer, one of the mates of the ship, seeing the situation the poor fellow was in, jumped in to save him, and succeeded, though not without much difficulty and personal risk, in supporting the man until a boat was lowered to his assistance. Strange to say, the man recovered, and was again at his duty on the following day. The Hon. Company's steamer, Auckland, met us, at Keeto Point, and taking us in tow, about mid-day, brought us safely to the outer anchorage of Chusan, into a handsome bay, which had received

the name of St. Helen's; the man-of-war station, half way between this and the inner harbour, having gained the appropriate appellation of Spithead. The currents and tides through these narrow channels are so strong, that, at one time, we were two hours under full speed, without as much as progressing one hundred yards.

Nothing can exceed the high state of cultivation which the whole of this group is under, every inch of land being occupied with some description of kitchen-garden stuff. All is tilled with manual labour alone, with the exception of the low, wet, paddy fields at the base of the valleys, which are occasionally ploughed by the assistance of the ox. We were much surprised to see so much cultivation, evidently the work of a large population, but so few houses; and I am still of opinion, that this, in a great measure, is to be accounted for, by reason of the people living so constantly in their boats, that they have no necessity for other habitations, being husbandmen and fishermen alternately, according as the different seasons grant them employment, in either of these separate avocations.

The greatest degree of pains and care is taken by this thrifty nation to improve their soil by constantly manuring it, thus enabling them always to obtain two crops, and very constantly three, from the same land in one year. They have for centuries been in the habit of transporting manure from the large towns on the sea-coast, to the fertile districts in central China, made up and pressed into a form very much resembling our oil-cake. A laughable circumstance occurred to some of the sailors in H. M. S. C——, who, at the blockading of the river leading to Ning-Po, espying some of this composition on board a junk, and taking it to be patent preserved soup, immediately appropriated a portion of it. Notions of bird's-nest soup, sharks' fins, and other Chinese dainties flitting across their minds, they determined to revel in luxury for many a day, and a large portion was boiled in the ship's coppers. The dainty was not much relished at the time, but judge their disgust when made acquainted, some days subsequently, with its real nature; it ever after assumed the name amongst the expedition of C—— soup.

Guano, an article of quite recent use in Europe, has been many years known in China. I will here quote a few words from a Canton Gazette upon this subject:

"At the risk of provoking a smile from the reader, we yet shall not hesitate to mention an article which may hereafter become a considerable import of China; it is the new manure, Guano, which is becoming so popular in England. Agricultural journals give detailed statements of the results, which demonstrate that it is the most valuable fertilizing matter with which we have yet become acquainted.

"The latest accounts report, that when used for garden cultivation, in a liquid state, after the manner which, from time immemorial, has been in use with the Chinese, the beneficial effects are so great that it renders it the most economical and productive manure for such purposes.

"We have every reason to credit these statements; and as Guano is obtained on the west coast of South America, and as all the vessels that come from thence arrive in ballast, we would ask whether it would not be worth trying the experiment of importing this article into China?

"It is well known that the greatest pains are taken by the Chinese in the care, preparation, and appliance of manures. In no other part of the world are fertilizing matters so economized or so wisely appropriated. Manuring land they designate 'dropping fatness.'

"We are assured that manure is transported from the southern to the northern provinces at a cost for freight exceeding that which would be incurred on Guano, if brought hither. The prime cost of the Chinese article ranges, we are told, according to quality, from 25 to 50 dollars per ton. The best is far inferior in fertilizing efficacy to Guano, which could be imported, we believe, at *one-third of this price.*"

The temples, or joss-houses, in Chusan, particularly strike the stranger; their curiously shaped roofs with glazed tiles, and variously painted walls, peeping out from many a secluded and retired nook, the prettiest and most picturesque situations being invariably selected for their sites.

A large number of transports and a few men-of-war were anchored in each of the harbours.

In the course of the afternoon we proceeded on shore to have ocular demonstration of a town, of which we had heard and read so much—the first position we occupied during the early part of the war, little dreaming, at that time, it would ever be my lot to place my foot within its walls. On our way towards the landing-place we visited a gigantic junk which had been captured by H. M. S. Columbine, near the Rugged Isles. She was laden with silks and copper, and was supposed to be from Japan; she was awaiting condemnation as a lawful prize, it being generally set down that she would prove a rich one. After peace had been established, she was eventually given up again, to the unexpected delight and happiness, no doubt, of her owner, she having been proved to be the property of a private individual, and not that of the government, it being considered politic to shew that we were not at war with the Chinese people, but solely with the authorities at present ruling over them.

This huge box (I cannot bring myself to call it by any other name) was far the most extraordinary thing of the kind I had ever

seen, although, after being constantly accustomed to see them, the novelty soon wears off; yet the first impression cannot fail to be that of wonder, how any people could dream of navigating the trackless ocean in this huge coffin. She must have far exceeded 500 tons burden, according to a rough calculation, which by eye-sight alone we made of her. The upper part of her poop was at least as high as that of a seventy-four, with curious staircases and passages communicating to the different portions of the ship, more after the fashion of a house; her mast was a magnificent spar, eleven feet in circumference, and of prodigious height; her cables, composed of coir, made from the outer covering of the cocoa-nut, for durability and lightness unequalled, and her wooden anchors, although primitive in their construction, would, I doubt not, have answered perfectly well in any but a rocky bottom, which is scarcely ever to be met with on the coasts or harbours they are accustomed to anchor in. Her sides were painted with a rude imitation of ports, and what with her numberless flags and streamers, her huge, unwieldly mat sails, her gigantic rud-

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der, and antediluvian-looking crew, she presented a novel and striking sight; but certainly she could in no way merit the term of "walking the waters like a thing of life."

Her captain, a fine old fellow, had previously made ten successful voyages in her from Shang-hai to Japan, and when first captured he was requested to act as pilot up the Yang-tse-kiang; with the intricate navigation among the sands and shoals of which river he did not profess to be unacquainted. He stated that nothing should induce him to undertake this office; that, on the contrary, if forced upon him, he would speedily put an end to his existence, by throwing himself in the river, as death, he was certain, would soon be his fate, were he to comply with our wishes, as no one could escape detection and the consequent punishment attending it, were they to offend in any way the Imperial Government. He greatly magnified the dangers of the mighty stream, declaring it was utterly impossible for our gigantic ships to ascend; that we should speedily be encompassed with sand-banks and other difficulties, from which we could never ex-

tricate ourselves; and, moreover, were we partially to succeed, the vengeance of the gods would speedily overtake us, for our rashness, and we should all be totally destroyed. A few short weeks were sufficient to shew him how ridiculous were all his prognostications regarding the dangers and difficulties of the navigation of this river, and how wofully the gods, upon whom he so much trusted, left his imperial master in the lurch, at his utmost need. We saw on board the junk many very beautiful and rare plants from the island of Japan, dwarfed in a manner, I believe, peculiar to the gardeners of that island.

The first object which struck our attention, on our stepping on shore, was Joss-House Hill, an elevated position commanding both the landing-place and the plain between it and the city; from its summit we had a fine view of Ting-hai, the capital of the island, distant from its base about three quarters of a mile. This joss-house, in common with all other government buildings, whenever it suited our purposes, was turned by us into a barrack, in which act we but imitated the Chinese themselves. In

this respect they differ totally from all other Eastern nations, and in no way consider in the light of desecration, a habit constantly resorted to by all travellers of distinction—namely, that of taking up their dwelling for the time of their stay in these religious temples; neither do they consider them in the least contaminated, either by cooking or eating in them, possessing none of the vulgar prejudices to be met with among the Mohammedans or the Hindoos,—the more singular, as they worship the same fraternity of gods, the family of Bhudd, so highly reverenced by this large and powerful sect on the continent of India; amongst whom, the act only of looking into one of their temples by any one not of their own persuasion, would so far defile it, as to render it in future unfit for prayer, or the idolatrous worship to which it had been formerly devoted.

Mounted on a carriage, beside some of our own guns, was a Chinese brass nine-pounder carronade. This had been cast the year previous at Chinhai, in imitation of one which they had procured from the unfortunate brig Kite, which vessel was lost upon their coast during our previous occupation

of the island, her crew and passengers, including poor Mrs. Noble, having been taken up to Ning-Po. This gun was almost a facsimile of our own; but the tangent screw for elevation and depression, in the original, had no doubt become corroded by the action of the salt water, it having lain some short time at the bottom of the sea. Adhering closely to the model, they had cast their screw and gun all in one piece; with all their ingenuity being totally at a loss to divine its use or meaning, but being determined to act steadily up to the old maxim, of fighting the barbarians with their own weapons; they therefore stuck rigidly to the pattern they had received.

We had also a capital view of the laborious defences which they erected, between the first time of our evacuating Chusan and that of its being retaken by the army under Sir Hugh Gough. It was astonishing to observe the long walls of mud which they had industriously thrown up, fancying that because we took possession of the town by a front attack in the former instance, we should proceed precisely the same way to attack it a second time, solely devoting all

their energies to the erection of defences on the sea-side, to the neglect of those faces of the city towards the land. Such is their detestation to change and novelty, that they fancy nothing whatever can be accomplished in a way the least deviating from that in which it had formerly been executed. About half an hour's walk brought us to the city of Ting-hai itself, which we entered under a low gateway through a very thick wall composed of brick-work, and in a tolerable state of repair, the gates being studded with massive plates of iron. These defences, in the hands of more determined and better instructed defenders, would have withstood the efforts of the best European troops for a considerable time, during which a vast slaughter would probably have ensued. The streets were very narrow, filled with shops neatly set out with merchandize of almost every description, among which Chinese pottery ware bore no inconsiderable place.

We proceeded directly through the town to the large joss-house, which deserves a much better description than my pen will give of it, containing the most unique collection of gods and goddesses that any hea-

then could wish to adore, strict orders being enforced that these should receive no injury from the soldiers or sailors, sentries being also placed to prevent the admission of any one within the building without proper authority.

Within the first gateway were five colossal figures, meant to represent the gods of war, music, justice, wisdom, and science; all these were exceedingly well executed; but so grotesque were their figures, dress, and attitude, that, but for their gigantic size and the elegance of the building they were placed in, I should have been inclined to surmise their only use could be that of terrifying refractory children: they each exceeded twenty feet in height.

The god of music, in particular, was represented with one leg crossed over the other, endeavouring, with all the energy of a Spanish Don at a serenade, to court the favours of his beloved mistress upon the guitar.

On entering the inner temple, a huge figure representing the Queen of Heaven, supported on either hand by divinities of equal size or celebrity, presented themselves;

these were handsomely gilt, as well as the thrones upon which each was seated, and although well executed, did not bear the same resemblance to mortals, as the former gods I have mentioned, but were evidently of much greater antiquity. Proceeding onwards, we encountered a long single rank of sainted gentry, painted or gilt, as fancy or the sacred characters they personified dictated. These were employed in their separate avocations. Amongst them was our friend Commissioner Lin, who, with an angry countenance and a red-hot pitch-fork, was employed in the courteous act of driving the Barbarians into the outer waters, and exterminating the name of the strangers from the land. The number of those figures, which were about the human size, could not have been far short of fifty. All were the property of this one temple; judge, then, what a host of images there must be throughout the empire of China, scarcely a small cluster of twenty houses existing without its joss-house, and this temple was considered by no means overcrowded with these holy effigies.

A silvery-toned gong was hanging in one

part of the building, and a very ancient bell in another; the latter covered with Chinese characters, in the sharpest alto relievo, I ever have seen worked upon metal, far surpassing any previous idea I had formed of their capabilities of execution in this style. Having satisfied our curiosity in regard to this novel edifice, we proceeded to the commandant's house—a most comfortable building, with a courtyard in its centre, reminding me forcibly of the Pateo, invariably to be met with in every house in Seville; it consisted of but one story. These houses rarely indeed, except in the most crowded towns, exceed one story in height; thus they occupy a considerable space of ground, though, perhaps, in reality, of no very large dimensions. This reminds me of a remark quoted by Mr. Davis, of the Emperor of China, who, with *naïveté*, asked, upon seeing a picture of London, if it were by reason of the territory being so small, and the consequent fear we must have of covering the whole with buildings, that we thus crowded story upon story, until the houses almost reached the clouds. The furniture was well made and highly polished, and displayed a

degree of taste and refinement, as well as of luxury, for which I was altogether unprepared. Near to the house was a handsome gateway to a temple, dedicated to their ancient lawgiver, Confucius; and although his creed does not meet with so many followers as the more gaudy worship of Bhudd, yet considerable numbers are to be classed amongst its devout adherents. During the progress of our walk we encountered a number of women, all of whom wore the compressed feet peculiar to the well-born Chinese, which appeared scarcely ever to exceed two-and-a-half inches in length. Were I a solitary traveller in these distant regions, I should have some fear that my veracity would be called in question with regard to this statement, but as, since our invasion of China, there are now so many hundred Europeans who have had repeated opportunities of clearly seeing what I now describe, I have no fear of being set down as drawing the long-bow. By a sketch which I took from nature, from a foot which had been cut off within the house we occupied at Ching-kiang-foo, and which is inserted in a subsequent part of this work, the reader

will readily be enabled to trace the mode which they adopt, from the tenderest years, to produce what to us appears a most disgusting and hideous deformity, but which, to them, is the *ne plus ultra* of perfection in the female sex.

We must, however, be cautious ere we criticise too freely the apparent follies and inconsistencies of our neighbours, lest they retort our sneers upon ourselves, which with some show of reason they might perhaps do, in the case of some of the tight-laced ladies of London and Paris, much more injury accruing from the compression applied to this vital part of the body, the waist, than confining the extremities, where the injury can be but local; and I trust I shall not be excluded from all the circles of the fair sex in my own country if I pronounce the opinion, that as much deformity is sometimes produced by unnatural attempts to counterfeit the shape of the wasp, as by endeavours to imitate the beautiful and agile foot of the lively fawn.

CHAPTER VII.

H. C. iron steamer Ariadne—Yang-tse-Kiang—Captain Collinson—Cultivation of the land—Wealth of China—Destruction of the gods—Shang-hai—Tea-gardens at Shang-hai—Return to Woosung—Disposing of plunder—The mate of the Marion—A financial speculation—Woosung batteries—Date of the guns—Arts and sciences—Mandarin and his button—Wooden crosses—Confucius—Coal discovered.

ON the 17th of June, we again were under canvas; leaving Chusan by the Blackwall passage, we passed close to a very romantic spot, called Silver Island, used formerly as a place of banishment by the Emperor for his refractory mandarins. Passing Gutzlaff island on the following afternoon, we were safely anchored off the Amherst rocks, immediately opposite the entrance of the stupendous river which was shortly to become the

scene of our future operations. Her Majesty's ship Plover was here stationed to act as a beacon to the many transports which were daily arriving, laden with stores and troops. A few days prior, the Hon. Company's iron steamer, Ariadne, had struck upon a cone-shaped rock, within one mile and a half of this anchorage, and but for her having been built in compartments, she must have sunk immediately. By dint of unremitted exertion, of pumping and baling, the crew, assisted by extra hands from two men-of-war brigs, were enabled to bring her into Chusan harbour; where, however, some time after, she sunk to rise no more.

We remained at anchor off the Amherst rocks for two succeeding days; on the second of which, his excellency, Sir H. Pottinger, in the Honourable Company's steamer, Queen, passed us on his way into the river. Captain Collison, R.N., then came on board to act as pilot, in taking us over the bar of the Yang-tse-kiang — a nervous and difficult task to perform, with a vessel of such a large draught of water as ours; he, however, had previously made so accurate a survey of it, that he

accomplished his task without difficulty on the following morning.

The literal meaning of the words Yang-tse-kiang is, the "Son of the Ocean"—by no means an unappropriate name for this truly noble and gigantic river. The mouth by which we entered was more than fifteen miles wide; and the northern one, considered less safe, from its numerous sandbanks, is of infinitely greater width. The course of the river is calculated to be 2700 miles from its source to its exit into the ocean, and we found it navigable to vessels of the largest class, as I shall hereafter shew, as far as Nankin, upwards of 200 miles from its mouth; and from the quantity of water, and the great size of the river, even thus far up, I make no doubt it would be equally easy to proceed double that distance with ships of equal size. From Captain Collison we heard confirmed the intelligence which had already been received, of the destruction of the formidable batteries which commanded the mouth of the Woosung river, the great channel of communication with the interior, to the richest towns of central China; and that Shang-hai, a large city of the third

class, was now in the occupation of our forces; this gave an additional eagerness to join head-quarters, and fortunately the tide being in our favour, we dropped anchor at Woosung by an early hour in the day. On the following morning we accompanied the plenipotentiary, in a small steamer, which the Admiral had sent for his use, up to Shang-hai, where Sir Hugh Gough had now established his head-quarters. We passed the batteries which had so recently been the scene of such dreadful slaughter, and stemming a strong current, proceeded rapidly up the river: the country through which it wound its way was a perfect flat as far as the eye could reach, and in as high a state of cultivation as the market gardens around London; small farm-houses stood in every direction, neatly encircled with flower gardens, the whole presenting a perfect picture of wealth, fertility, industry, and comfort; and when we were informed—a circumstance we had every reason to believe perfectly true—that the same state of things existed, not only throughout the whole of this, but of all the neighbouring provinces, any one of which, as regards extent, would

make a handsome kingdom for a European potentate, some slight idea may be formed of the endless internal agricultural wealth of the Chinese empire, and the little concern the Emperor of this mighty country has been accustomed to bestow upon foreign nations, their commerce, trade, or anything else concerning them. Numerous implements of agriculture, which we supposed only to be known to the most scientific and highly instructed European nations, were discovered in great numbers, and in constant use among them—from the plough and common harrow to the winnow and thrashing machine, with which scarcely any farm-house, however small, was unprovided; added to which, for the purpose of irrigation, scarcely any considerable field that did not possess its chain-pump, for the purpose of irrigating their crops by drawing water from the lower levels, with comparatively small labour to themselves, from which models I have not the least doubt those at present in use in our navy or merchantmen, were taken.

On nearing the town, we perceived three or four of our men-of-war at anchor, immediately opposite to the walls; this, on a

rough calculation, I should take to be about sixteen miles from the mouth of this river; there here was plenty of water for ships of the largest class, as we dropped our anchor in nine fathoms. We landed at the stairs of what they supposed had been the custom-house—a handsome building, and highly characteristic of that curious and peculiar style of which they are so fond. On either side of the gateway was a lofty pole, half-way up, which was a sort of resting place, or what a sailor would call a top; these are invariably placed near the houses of the officials, denoting a mandarin's station. All was now, however, a sad scene of confusion; the handsome furniture, having been torn from its accustomed place, was used for the camp-fires of the soldiers, and numberless were the gods and josses, of all sizes and characters, which strewed the yards and passages, and were frequently converted to the like useful purpose, as from being old and dry, they burned the more readily. A considerable portion of my previous service having been passed in countries where religious rites and ceremonies, and veneration for idols, had been carried to a

ridiculous pitch of enthusiasm, I could not divest myself of the idea that by this wholesale destruction of their gods, we should acquire the hatred of all classes and communities in the empire. This feeling, however, soon wore away, for it was very evident they seemed not to possess the same veneration for their images common to other heathen nations. The reason of this great destruction among the gods I was at a loss, for a considerable time, to account for, until the following day I saw a pair of eyes extracted, by breaking in the back of the head of a fierce-looking figure, which I perceived to be balanced upon a pivot, by a Spanish dollar and a half; and upon afterwards ascertaining that it was a common custom, not only to place in the head, but also to represent the liver, and other portions of the interior of their deities, with pieces of money or sycee, the mystery was at once solved; for chance having in the first instance probably led to this discovery, the soldiers and camp-followers were not slow in availing themselves of these handy deposits, in obtainingwhich they often committed such wholesale destruction. In an

act of this kind a soldier received rather a severe contusion: sitting on the arm of a gigantic god, he was endeavouring to pick out its brains, when the figure toppling over, crushed him between it and the stone floor. We proceeded through the city to where the general had established his head-quarters; every shop was closed, and the town apparently utterly deserted; here and there a few houses had been broken into, but instances of this kind seemed rare. It had almost escaped the horrors of war; having made no resistance to the entry of the troops, it consequently had been released from the pillage which had befallen many of the former cities that had come within the scope of our operations.

Having walked near a mile through narrow streets and lanes, we at length found ourselves at a large building in the centre of a public tea-garden, which Sir Hugh Gough and his staff occupied, it being also sufficiently large to contain a considerable portion of troops. Here, small rooms, partially surrounded by water, curious bridges, gateways, gigantic lamps, grottoes, and shady alcoves, met the view on

every side; it wanted but its original occupants to make the scene perfect. Within the limits of the garden was an artificial eminence composed of rock work, commanding a view over the adjacent portions of the town.

We were speedily introduced to the general, who received us in a large room filled with every description of furniture and rich property, which the frightened inhabitants had been obliged to relinquish in their hurried decampment from their homes. Sir Hugh seemed particularly delighted to hear of the large reinforcements we had brought to his army; he was in excellent health and spirits, and looked forward with the greatest pleasure and confidence to the ensuing campaign.

We shortly returned to the mandarin's house, where we disembarked, intending the same evening to go down to Woosung. I regretted much circumstances had occasioned the town to wear so desolate an appearance, as in happier times it would, I have no doubt, have been smiling with riches and plenty. It being the great *entrepot* of commerce to the rich cities of Souchow-foo, Tchang-chow-foo, and other large

towns in the interior, it must have been a place of considerable wealth and active trade—indeed, on a subsequent visit to this town, when hostilities were at an end, I found fully borne out the surmises I then made upon this head.

On our return to the water's-edge, I observed a crowd of country people busily engaged in purchasing cloaks, silks, &c., from the native followers of the army; dozens of the very richest of these, lined with fur, were thrown over the city walls, a few trifling pieces of silver being hauled up in return. This species of plunder was put a stop to, as far as practicable; but these articles having been taken from the houses of the mandarins, and government officers, were considered by the soldiers lawful booty. Having procured a few little relics of the town, we again turned our head down stream, and in three hours were once more on board. This was the first town I had seen under these extraordinary circumstances, and I could not help admiring the order and regularity observed by the soldiers, under the many temptations to which they were open. For although the intoxicating

spirit called Sam-shu, was procurable in any quantity, I did not observe a single instance of drunkenness among the men.

The rapidity of the current in the Yang-tse-Kiang was very great, rendering it a matter of some difficulty, particularly on account of the ebb tide, to reach the ship. A few days prior to our arrival, the mate of the transport, Marion, having been sent with a message to another ship, did not return; great fears were entertained of his having drifted out to sea, and that probably both himself and the boat's crew would perish with hunger even should they escape being swamped. Some days subsequent to our arrival, to the surprise and pleasure of his friends, he returned with his men in a Chinese junk. He had been swept out to sea, and on the following day, seeing this native craft at a distance, he made for her, determining at all hazards to board her, thinking it even better to be killed by her crew than to perish miserably without a trial for his rescue. Much to his gratification, he was received with open arms by the kind-hearted owner; who, leaving the track he was sailing upon, brought both the mate

and his men, at their request, again into the Yang-tse-Kiang river.

Great lenity was invariably shewn towards the inhabitants of the different towns which we occupied, strict orders being given by the heads of departments, not to molest or interfere with the people in any way, and by no means to despoil them of anything they had in their possession. Some of the soldiers were, however, far better financiers than their chiefs imagined; and being placed as sentries at the different gates of the towns, politely requested—and, it is needless to add, were seldom refused—a sum of money from every Chinese who passed through. In times of alarm, this species of black mail amounted to a considerable sum, it being almost impossible, when discovered, to make the people themselves understand that this tax was not levied by authority. Upon one occasion, an officer of very high rank was stepping through the gate as this impost was being levied, and in the hurry and confusion of presenting arms, the sentry let his whole bag fall to the ground. An inquiry was immediately made into the circumstance;

and, upon examination of his purse, it was discovered that, although the man had only been at this post half an hour, no less a sum than forty dollars was found in it, clearly shewing what a good harvest he had reaped from the financial speculation which he had undertaken.

The morning after our return from Shanghai we spent on shore, visiting the dismantled batteries of Woosung, which presented an awful example of what could be performed by a steady, well-directed fire from the powerful broadsides of our ships of war. A large tower opposite to where H.M.S. Cornwallis had taken her station, resisted this terrific cannonade in a truly surprising way. This was greatly owing to their having placed in front of it a screen of bamboo about two yards from the outer wall, the intermediate space being filled with loose materials. The shot, meeting with no sudden check, buried itself, without, in many instances, injuring the building beyond; and the bamboo, like other basket work, never splintering, was less injured than any other species of wood which could have been placed there.

The line of batteries was far too exten-

sive to be defended, except by an enormous army, being three miles and 600 yards in extent—one continued line, with a ditch in the rear, over which small bridges had been placed to enable the defenders, in case of need, thus to retire into the open country beyond. The guns, generally speaking, were about ten feet long, and of about the same calibre as our twenty-four-pounders. A large proportion of these were of brass; and those which were composed of this valuable metal were soon after the action removed on board one of the store-ships. The iron guns were either spiked, or sufficiently injured to be of no further service, by knocking the trunnions off them. Upon examining minutely these cannon, I discovered that they were not composed entirely of one metal, but that the interior was a wrought cylinder, over which the iron had been run, when in a state of fusion. One of the interpreters stated that the date upon one gun in particular shewed it to have been fabricated more than two hundred years since. Should that really be the case, it is somewhat a remarkable circumstance; for, until latterly, there has prevailed an opinion that the

Chinese were ignorant of the means of rendering iron into a liquid state, until within a comparatively recent period. The inhabitants of this wonderful nation have, however, been so long plunged in seclusion, as regards all the rest of the globe, that it would be difficult indeed for us to place any dates upon their discoveries in the arts and sciences, which, no one can deny who has the opportunity of looking into the subject, have arrived in China at an astonishing degree of perfection. The intercourse which will, in future, it is to be hoped, spring up between us, will enlighten us upon a thousand points which, heretofore, can only have been mystery and guess work, even to those foreigners who were most conversant either with the people themselves, their manners, or literature. All the guns were thickly studded with Chinese characters, most of which, however, were considerably obliterated both by age and neglect.

The carriages, made so as to allow them to traverse on a pivot, were formed of camphor wood, which, from the circumstance of its never splintering, and from its durability and hardness, render it peculiarly applicable

for that purpose. No quoins for elevation or depression seemed to be in use.

As we passed along the batteries, we saw a large number of dead bodies, most of these having been killed by cannon shot. One in particular took my attention, being a fine man, evidently of some rank, and upon my mentioning the circumstance to some officers who were present at the action, they said, he had been particularly active and zealous in encouraging the soldiers under his command, that he was a mandarin of some consideration, but that they were unable to tell what coloured button he had been invested with, as upon receiving his death-wound, he had been observed to tear it from his cap and throw it into a deep pool of water, which was near at hand. Such, indeed, is the care and reverence with which they regard this badge of honour, that, generally speaking, nothing short of death will compel them to part from it.

It is worthy of remark that, on many different parts of the batteries, wooden crosses had been erected, for what purpose we could never ascertain. Some said, that they entertained a notion that, as Christians, we

would not be induced to fire upon the emblem of our faith; but to this opinion I could not be persuaded, for possessing as they do so small a respect for their own sacred images and symbols, I do not suppose they would give the barbarians credit for having a higher state of feeling in this respect than they had themselves.

We next worked our way a short distance into the interior of the country; and although the whole of our party did not exceed a dozen in number, the country people fled before us in all directions; nor were we able to induce any of them to approach during the entire day. In our rambles we visited some joss-houses, and to shew the mixed idea they must have of religion, under the same roof we discovered a temple dedicated to Bhudd, well stored with gods and goddesses, while another portion of the building was sacred to Confucius, their ancient lawgiver, whose very principles were adverse to idolatry, solely the memorials of the dead being allowed within the walls of his sacred edifices. After one of the most interesting days of my military service, the first upon which I had been an

eye-witness to the recent horrors and devastation of war, where the lifeless, yet unburied, traces of recent conflict were so plentifully strewed around, I returned, with no bad appetite, to—dinner.

The same day the town of Shang-hai was evacuated by our troops, the commander-in-chief considering a speedy movement up the Yang-tse-Kiang the most preferable he could pursue under present circumstances. During the admiral's stay he had examined the Woosung river a considerable distance up, as he calculated. half-way to Soo-chow-foo, endeavouring to discover the proper channel that led to this wealthy and populous city, that, in case it should ever be considered requisite to carry on warlike operations against it, a previous local knowledge of the distance and mode of getting there would be of the greatest consequence. In this he partially succeeded; and on going up the canal, he passed two junks laden with coal, on their way to a large iron-foundry, a few miles from the city of Shang-hai itself. A very grand point was therefore discovered, and one that proved to be of the utmost con-

sequence in our future operations, not only that they possessed coal, but that it was an article of common use among them, and subsequently we found it in great quantities in other places, higher up the Yang-tse-Kiang.

CHAPTER VIII.

Surveying ships despatched—Sail up the river—Unpropitious day—Island of Tsung-Ming—Harvey Point—Ships ashore—Pagoda Hill—Deposits of the Yang-tse-Kiang—Fooshan—Temple of Fooshan—Total eclipse of the sun—Prophecies—Chinese prophecy—Home politics—Masters of transports—The Hon. Company—Kiang-yeen-heen—Fire-ships—Pagoda of Kiang-yeen-heen—Heat of weather—Batteries on shore—Eel pots—Destruction of the batteries—A fire ashore—Self-appropriation—A severe cold—Chinese interpreter—Counter-irritation—H. C. S. Phlegethon—Admiral's Pagoda—The broken capstan—Santo-shan—Ching-kiang-foo—H. C. S. Pluto—I-ching-heen—Signals for landing.

On Sunday, the 26th of June, the remaining portion of the transports and men-of-war entered safely into the river; our shipping could not have numbered less than seventy to eighty sail; and considering the large size of the transports that were em-

ployed in the expedition, it made a formidable appearance. All seemed now ready to strike a blow into the very heart of the empire.

Surveying ships were despatched up the river for the purpose of sounding, and reporting upon the practicabilities of the channel, and the possibilities there were of ascending it in such large vessels as H.M.S. Cornwallis and Belle-Isle—each a seventy-four, and drawing little short of twenty-four feet of water. In a few days one of the surveyors returned with the gratifying intelligence of their having discovered a fine deep channel for ninety miles, which was as far up as they had been.

It being now considered that the advance of the squadron might be prosecuted in safety, orders were promulgated, on the 5th of July, for the whole fleet to weigh anchor on the following morning, in five divisions. At 8 A.M. this was accordingly carried into effect, Sir W. Parker leading the van, attended by some steamers, &c., Sir H. Gough, in the Marion transport, following shortly after,—each division, to prevent confusion, having received orders to keep two miles

astern of the one immediately in front of it.

Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the masters of the transports, which, with rare exceptions, in smartness of movement, order, and regularity of their crews, equalled, if they were not superior to, the men-of-war of most other nations I have ever had the opportunity of criticising.

Now commenced the most decided feature that had yet been shewn in the Chinese war, and one well worthy of the powerful nation that was carrying it on. By this decided step, the whole army and fleet were at once launched into the very vitals of the empire, from which retreat without conquest was now rendered virtual defeat. Care, however, was taken to keep up a perfect communication with our base, at Woosung and Chusan, which, however, from the very puerile maritime strength and resources of our antagonists, was no very difficult matter to accomplish, nor was there much chance of their ever seriously attempting to disturb it.

The morning broke decidedly unpropitious for the undertaking—a heavy, dense

atmosphere, with a drizzling rain, led us to fear we should be delayed still some days longer. It, however, speedily improved towards the middle of the day. Having proceeded about twenty miles, we discovered a small stream flowing into the main channel, and just inside, above the tops of the trees, were the masts of an enormous fleet of junks, some of whom, which had been surprised ere they had time to enter, were disembarking their cargo with all imaginable speed, fancying that both fire and sword would otherwise overtake them. Much to their own surprise they were in no way disturbed.

Stake nets for fishing here reached completely across the stream. In these I was informed they caught, at certain seasons of the year, a large fish of fine quality, greatly resembling our sturgeon. Almost at the same moment, both the Cornwallis and ourselves grounded; all our endeavours to get off again having proved fruitless, we remained quiet and stationary until the following day's tide released us from our uncomfortable position.

We were, at this time, just opposite a point of land, in the island Tsung-Ming, which

particularly deserves observation in a military point of view; the only deep channel running close to the land, it was therefore probably the very best situation in the whole river that could have been selected by the enemy for the purpose of erecting batteries to annoy or check our progress up the stream, as it commanded completely the only navigable part to ships of such burden as we possessed.

This point received the name by which we have chosen to distinguish it, from a certain Lieutenant Harvey, of H. M. S. Conroy, who met his death at this place. He had landed for the purpose of procuring fresh provisions, the crew of the ship being very sickly with scurvy, produced by a long continuance of salt food and a want of vegetables, and rendered the more disagreeable from their constant proximity to the shore, and the immense quantities which were continually within their sight, but which the natives, probably through fear of their mandarins, whose orders they were no doubt acting up to, resolutely refused to supply them with. A large body of Chinese soldiers happened to be near the spot, and

seeing but a small number of foreigners, the greater portion of whom were unarmed, in which state they had come on shore for the better convenience of carrying away the necessaries they should procure, determined to attack them. To effect this object with less personal risk, they ensconced themselves, unseen, between the foraging party and their boat, whose return, laden with fowls, &c., was the signal for a general volley being poured upon them from the place of ambush. Mr. Harvey and one marine were laid low. This was not altogether unrevenged—a poor satisfaction, however. His brother officers and crew deplored his loss the more, from his having sacrificed his life on this hostile shore in an endeavour to alleviate the sufferings of his fellow-seamen. These were the two first individuals killed by the enemy's fire in the Chinese war, the first capture of Chusan having taken place without the life of a single soldier or sailor having been sacrificed.

In consequence of the wind being westerly, thus blowing directly down the river, we made but two miles on the 7th; and it was not considered prudent to beat against it,

On Stone by B. Clayton. Drawn by General Brown.

VIEW OF PAGODA HILL, THE YANG-T.SE-KIANG RIVER.

Saunders & Otley, Conduit St.

even during the few hours of flood tide, for although the river here had the appearance of immense width, yet the deep channel was intricate, and as yet but very imperfectly known. This evening we received intimation that H. M. S. Blonde was ashore some few miles lower down. Every man-of-war that had joined the Admiral had now been aground at least once during the expedition, with the exception of the Dido, of which good fortune she could not boast many days. It, however, was in no way to be wondered at, for what with the shallowness of the river and the rapidity of the tides, it was indeed admirable to observe the dexterity displayed on all sides in avoiding the numerous banks with which we were surrounded.

On the 8th, we made a long run, losing sight of Tsung-Ming and Mason's Island. We kept about mid-channel, and about 2 P. M. we were abreast of some rising land, the most lofty peak of which goes by the name of Pagoda-hill, from the circumstance of a high pyramidical building having been built on its summit, in the curious and fantastic style peculiar to these edifices. The "tout ensemble" had a striking and remark-

able appearance in regard to the low land for miles surrounding it—one side being scarped by nature as abruptly as the cliffs at Dover. On casting our eyes around the horizon, a few more of these tiny mountains presented themselves, looking precisely like islands in the midst of an unbroken sea; the whole country otherwise, within the range of the telescope, being one continued flat of highly cultivated land. I have not the least doubt that the ocean once held her sway where whole millions of the countless inhabitants of this gigantic empire now fatten on the bounties of nature, improved as they are by the unceasing industry of this ant-like population; and that all this alluvial soil is nothing more than a deposit from the mountains in the interior, occasioned by the floods after heavy rains driving the land bodily towards the sea; and although, to carry this idea out, the imagination of my readers will be put to a severe task, considering how many thousand square miles of land that district now embraces, yet, when they bear in mind what an immense body of water must be continually pouring into the ocean, where, at

ninety miles from its mouth, the river is twelve or fourteen miles wide, with a current varying from four to six knots per hour, and the water so surcharged with muddy particles that nothing can be seen three inches beneath the surface; I think, when they take all these things into consideration, they will deem my theory, to say the least of it, by no means impossible.

The ascent of the river in such large vessels was rather tedious. While the tides lasted we generally resorted to their assistance to enable us to pursue our march, occasionally having recourse to the help of a steamer, the winds continuing so light that we were unable to trust entirely to our sails alone, to force such huge bodies against so heavy a mass of water, making its way out. At four, P.M., on the 8th, we came to anchor opposite a small town called Fooshan. All hands were upon the *qui vive* at observing a number of armed boats proceeding from the flag-ship towards the land. We now fancied there would be some work to be done; we moreover thought we could discover batteries on the shore, about three miles distant. We watched their proceed-

ings intently with our glasses, expecting every moment a signal for us to join them in an attack upon the place. The boats' crews having boarded some junks, we afterwards saw them quietly leap on shore, and then for the first time perceived that the batteries were dismantled, and apparently there was no chance of their meeting with any interruption to the proceedings they might think proper to adopt. We soon perceived that the only blood likely to flow on this occasion would be that of bullocks, pigs, and poultry.

A short distance from the town itself, and further removed inland, was a rising piece of ground, upon the summit of which was situated a large temple, or other public building, and beyond this, still further from the banks of the river, an old fort. These evidently were in no state of repair to resist, in any serious degree, the force of our artillery; but, garrisoned by determined troops, would have proved a serious obstacle in the advance of any body unprovided with that powerful arm in warfare. The ships' crew and soldiers in H. M. S. Belle-Isle received this day a supply of fresh provi-

sions, which was the more acceptable to them, as they had not had more than twenty-one days of fresh meat issued to them since their leaving Plymouth, now nearly *seven months*, and strong symptoms of scurvy was shewing itself throughout their ranks, to be attributed to the cause I have already mentioned, together with the crowded state of the ship.

On the following day, with the first of the tide, we again weighed anchor; this was not, however, before mid-day. A light, but favourable breeze from the east accompanied us, and with the prospect of soon reaching Golden Island all hearts were alive and merry.

I have omitted to mention that during the time the boats from H.M.S. Cornwallis were landing at Fooshan, a total eclipse of the sun took place. This is invariably considered by the Chinese as a very unfavourable omen, boding nought but evil to the country wherever it may be visible. Under present circumstances, their superstitious fears were doubly roused, and, as I afterwards ascertained, numbers of them stated it would be madness to resist us, being con-

vinced that we were leagued in close connexion with devils and demons, and assisted by them to the destruction of all who opposed our will.

Upon this occasion a soothsayer prophesied—and the sequel shows with how much truth—that fire, flood, famine, war, and pestilence, would all take place in this province during the season. The four first dreadful scourges visited this unhappy people, in the widest sense of the word. The fifth (pestilence) was not the less relentless among our own ranks: vast numbers of brave young fellows meeting an untimely grave ere many weeks had passed—their only shroud the waters of the ocean stream. Another prophecy was also freely handed about—that their country would be conquered by a woman, assisted by ships, which should progress over the waters unassisted by sails, and against contrary tides. These two circumstances had apparently come to pass, in regard to our beloved Queen having sent us on this distant expedition, with such a numerous fleet of steamers, (or, as they are called there, fireships.) They were naturally all of one mind that the

day of the celestial power was near its completion, and that an empire, which for its durability had become proverbial, would ere long be overturned, and that they should be placed under the control and government of the "Red-haired Barbarians," after the same manner that the fair plains of Hindostan had fallen under their sway. How little did they know of our home politics! How astonished would their wisest men have been, could they have had a peep into Downing-street, and there have learned that not only was territorial aggrandizement not sought after, however dazzling it might be to those upon the field they would wish to occupy, but, on the contrary, all the instructions from home agreed in positively forbidding any territorial conquest whatever; and on no account to raise the standard of rebellion or revolution, or to give encouragement to any scheme tending to displace the present dynasty now ruling over the destinies of the kingdom of China.

On leaving Fooshan, the river took a complete bend back towards Pagoda Hill, in sight of which we were detained at anchor two days, during which time the steamers

were busily employed, both day and night, in searching out the deepest and best channel by which we might ascend, and laying down buoys to mark the safest track. Strict orders were given that *no one* should land upon the banks of the river, it being the policy as much as possible to conciliate the inhabitants, whose farm-yards had too often being cleared by foraging parties from the ships; at which practices none were more expert than the caterers for the masters of the transports, receiving from each officer a handsome remuneration for the provision of his table. These orders I am inclined to think were too constantly deviated from, at least so the numerous stories I afterwards heard would incline me to believe, as they were naturally desirous of filling their larders at as cheap a rate as possible.

Each master of a transport was supposed to keep, and I believe with but few exceptions they did so, a liberal table. When the troops landed, should it be for a few days' duration, the officers were supplied from the same source. On some few occasions complaints were preferred to the

Admiral on this subject; inquiry was duly made into it, and they were then placed upon a stipulated footing, which, according to the opinion of the reader, may be considered sufficiently liberal, or otherwise—to each individual in the mess was allowed, *per diem*, three bottles of beer, one of wine, and a pint of brandy. Three-quarters of the amount of this expense was defrayed by government: eight rupees being paid daily for each officer, to the masters of the transports, out of which government allowed six, the officer himself paying the remaining two; moreover, the whole army were upon war batta, drawing, tentage, and full allowances —indeed, the liberality which was shewn upon all occasions during this war, more especially to the army, I should think unprecedented.

These allowances had been regulated by the authorities in India; and no one who has once served under the Hon. Company but would be delighted to renew his acquaintance with such liberal paymasters.

On the 12th, we came in sight of a town called Kiang-jeen-heen, most romantically situated beneath a high over-hanging hill.

The country was now gradually assuming a somewhat more pleasing character, exchanging the dull everlasting flat of paddy grounds for an occasional rising piece of ground, some of these scantily wooded. Like all the other hills we had yet met with in this thickly inhabited country, a temple was built upon its top; this was now surrounded by a dense mass of people, gazing with wonder and astonishment at so strange and novel a spectacle, as a countless number of gigantic barbarian ships, stemming, by aid of their huge wings, the rapid current of these waters, hitherto altogether forbidden to any, save to those who with reverence looked upon his Imperial Majesty as the highest or only potentate on earth. The fire-ships, however, seemed to rivet most of their attention, totally baffling all notions they had previously held, in regard to the wonderful strength of this monster river, whose power, from infancy, they had been taught to respect and dread. About two miles below Kiang-jeen-heen a battery had lately existed, but had, like all the others we had yet passed, since Woosung, been dismantled by the Chinese prior to our arrival. I am inclined to think this had been done

very much at the instigation of the inhabitants of the town themselves, for wherever we met with no resistance we invariably treated them with kindness; but wherever the contrary had been their line of action, the destruction of their property, subsequently to the destruction of many of themselves, was the sure sequel to their opposition. The unexpected audacity of the barbarians in thus approaching into the very heart of the country was now complete.

The town of Kiang-jeen-heen itself appeared a very pretty one; a remarkable and lofty pagoda shewed above some trees, together with the party-coloured roofs of various temples; we could also clearly perceive the entrance to a large canal, and could discern, with our glasses, the passage-boats within. These were the first of that description of conveyance which I had so often read of, that we had as yet met with, and shewed us clearly we must be approaching towards the populous towns of central China. What I so much regretted was, not being able to land and examine at leisure these curious places; but I contented myself with the idea that ere many days

should elapse, both Kinshan and Ching-kiang-foo would be in our possession—the latter probably one of the richest cities in China, and which has now become a rival to the southern capital, Nankin, herself. These surmises proved to be well founded, as I shall presently have occasion to shew. We remained one day at anchor a few miles above this town, the small steamers again feeling our way up the river, which was here about six or seven miles wide, the tides, each day's march from the mouth of the stream, losing their influence and length of daily duration, evidently shewing that, ere many more miles, we should be obliged to trust entirely to the winds, to push us on.

We all agreed that this was the hottest day we had yet experienced since leaving the Straits of Sunda; many there were who fainted whilst employed about their daily avocations in the ships.

We were charmed to see, on the morning of the 14th, the signal hoisted, on board H.M.S. the Cornwallis, to weigh; and never was the order more promptly executed. Shortly after, the master of H.M.S. Belle Isle, who had been sent forward in one of

the steamers, returned on board, and endeavoured to answer the united inquiries of some two dozen voices, as to what he had seen. He said, he had proceeded some distance up the river, and fancied he had been within sight of Kinshan; at all events, they had been fired upon, from a battery mounting some twenty pieces of cannon; that there was plenty of water as far as they had gone. I can compare our progress in some respects to that of the early navigators—interesting in the extreme—not an instance of a *single individual*, much less of an European, out of our whole force, ever having been within this altogether unknown region. We were fortunate in having again a strong fair wind, enabling us to follow closely in the Admiral's wake. The greater part of this day's run was through one unvaried level country as far as the eye could reach; the river was very circuitous, as we appeared as if we were sailing rather away from, than towards, the batteries which had opened on our steamers. Comparatively but few people flocked to the banks. The country, on the whole, was more thickly wooded than we had been accustomed to see,

and, in some measure, resembled the richest and finest spots in the lowlands of our own much beloved, far distant home. Peeping constantly from beneath the trees were octagonal and square pagodas, belonging to their sacred buildings, and putting us in mind of the towers and steeples of our own churches, in some secluded villages, where many of us were not ashamed to allow our thoughts oftentimes to roam.

At short intervals, on the river's banks, small huts were built among the reeds; their occupants employed attending their eel-pots, which appeared to be constructed of bamboo, and finished with peculiar neatness, so inherent in this curious people; they were shaped much the same as our own. They had another method of fishing, which I had before seen practised in the tide-ways, both in France and Turkey; this was, by alternately lowering and raising a huge landing-net, taking from it at each successive haul the slippery captives which may not have had sufficient expertness to escape ere it was drawn up.

At sun-down we observed the Admiral to have taken up a position about four miles

a-head of where we then were, and immediately under a high mountain; we heard a few shots fired, saw some boats landing, and, ere we could arrive at our anchorage, near to the Cornwallis, a tremendous blaze of light arose from the shore, which had a very fine appearance, as by this time it had become quite dark. We soon ascertained that this was nothing more than two or three small batteries which had been destroyed, the marines having set fire to a large temple, which had been converted into a temporary barrack by the Chinese troops, who had been placed to defend the guns, but who had very judiciously escaped, upon seeing what a stupendous force was about to overwhelm them.

Immediately before our retiring to rest, an awful fire broke out in a small village somewhat below the spot we were anchored in. This was reported to be the act of the Chinese themselves, who, they said, intended to follow the example of the Russians on the invasion of the French, and set fire to their dwellings on our advance. Long after the war was terminated, I found that this had been occasioned solely

by the carelessness of one of a boat's crew, who were seeking for provisions, and who, after lighting his pipe, carelessly threw the brand with which he had done so among some dry straw; it speedily ignited, and the destruction of this happy little village was the consequence. Fortunate was it for this individual that the Admiral did not discover the real cause of the conflagration. Some of our expeditions after poultry and oxen, which, from the unwillingness of the Chinese authorities to allow the common people to supply us with provisions, were of necessity resorted to, were amusing enough, while others led to most disastrous consequences, in which case, almost invariably, the unhappy Chinese became the victims. Upon one occasion, I remember, a party started on a foraging expedition, with an intention of proceeding to a village, which they saw some miles in the interior; this they without difficulty reached, and speedily commenced the old practice of appropriating to themselves what most suited their wants from the stalls in the market-place, most of the inhabitants having fled. Their party soon became separated through their

cagerness, and little imagined these simple people would think of resisting them; on a sudden, however, there was a violent commotion on a small bridge, and a rush towards one particular individual; he defended himself bravely for a considerable time, shooting two of his opponents with a double-barrelled gun which he carried with him, but was eventually overpowered, and when in the act of being dispatched with a heavy iron hoe, was fortunately released by the timely intervention of one of his companions, who, drawing his pistol, shot the assailant. Numbers were increasing upon them on all sides, and had they not speedily returned to their boat, very little doubt exists that they would have been every one of them put to death.

On the 15th, the surveying ships again proceeded on their work. The necessary slow progress was to all parties exceedingly annoying, more especially so to the troops, who had been cooped up during so many months in our sadly overcrowded ship; who were, in consequence, very desirous to land and take up their abode upon shore.

I know of few things more unpleasant

than a heavy cold in the head. There are not many of my readers, I make bold to assert, who are not occasionally beset by this disagreeable companion. Let those who consider themselves worthy objects of commiseration when suffering under its effects, while surrounded by all the comforts of a snug English house, have some compassion for those in the same state, who are so unfortunate as to be pent up within the narrow limits of a ship, the thermometer at 91°, the tropical rays of a July sun fiercely reflected from the glassy surface of the water, without one breath of air to cool his parching temples; and no sooner has that powerful orb vanished for the night, than all the million insects that such a climate gives birth to, having lain dormant during the day, instantly spring into life and motion. The mosquitoes here, the largest and most venomous I ever met with, —and I consider myself no bad judge, having writhed under the tortures of these pigmy tormentors in all quarters of the globe,—immediately commence an attack, apparently with double relish, upon their foreign victims. Oh! horror of horrors, defend me

from a bad cold at any time or place, but more especially in a tropical or marshy climate, with the average daily thermometer at 90° Fahrenheit. With this dreaded companion were many of us now tormented.

I was greatly amused by the means employed by a Chinese of the name of Atang, who had been given to us as interpreter, to drive away a cold and rheumatic pain, and have subsequently found that it is the common mode resorted to by this simple people to chase away such maladies. He employed the services of one of the soldiers to rub his back with a number of the small copper coins of the country, called cash, until the blood was ready to rush from under the skin, and the whole surface was dreadfully inflamed; he moreover plucked small pieces of flesh from his body, and constantly drove pins into his legs: these remedies, I presume, he had recourse to, upon the same principle as that of the late Mr. St. John Long—counter-irritation. I could not, however, help giving him great credit for his endurance of pain, although I could not be persuaded, even at his constant solicitation, assuring me it was a cure for all evils

(which in one sense I thought very possible) to undergo the same treatment; by no means becoming a convert to the principle of scarifying one's back to drive away a headache, but rather fancying it would be following the example of the gentleman who cut off his nose, as the surest method of annoying his face.

About eleven in the forenoon we heard a great number of shots fired from the heavy artillery. Our anxiety to know the cause was not gratified until the morning of the 16th, when we were informed that it was occasioned by the firing from the Chinese upon the H.C.S.S. Phlegethon, who by accident having discovered a small masked battery among some reeds upon the banks of the river, had been fired upon from it; this had been kept up for a short time with becoming spirit. A few shells, however, nicely pitched, bursting among the defenders, soon threw them into disorder, and they speedily evacuated both their guns and the post.

In the meantime H.M.S.F. Vixen had proceeded beyond this masked work without even discovering its character, and had

reached the Golden Island itself, which they described as the most beautiful little fairy isle imaginable, covered with temples, whose gilt-topped pagodas shone brilliantly in the evening sun. They stated that they had caught sight of the town of Ching-Kiang-Foo, which they described as a very huge city, about three miles in the interior, the inhabitants quitting it as fast as they could, carrying with them their effects. These accounts filled us with a desire to proceed forward. A dead calm, however, succeeded to the strong and favourable breezes we had lately experienced, and we had no resource but that of calling patience to our aid, to make us endure our unenviable situation. We once or twice visited the dismantled batteries, and walked to the summit of the hill, where a small pagoda had been, as usual, erected, which I trust the Admiral was not offended by our christening afresh after his own title, calling it the Admiral's Pagoda.

On the 18th, I accepted an offer of going up the river in the Medusa, which vessel was dispatched for the purpose of ascertaining what our foremost ships were about,

and the cause of the firing which we had heard the evening previous, near Kinshan. I thus had an opportuuity of being the first of our own immediate party of seeing this beautiful little spot. The entrances to the Grand Canal appeared studded with junks, opposite to each of which, one leading to the north of China, the other to the rich provinces in the south, a man-of-war was stationed.

In their attempt to weigh anchor in H.M.S. Cornwallis, this day, they broke their capstan to pieces: this unlucky accident delayed the whole force until the 19th, when we all started, and by the aid of powerful steamers attached alongside the largest ships, we found ourselves able to overcome the tremendous force of the current, unassisted as we now were by any tide, for at this distance from the ocean we were altogether beyond its influence. The latter portion of this day's voyage was particularly interesting, more especially immediately prior to our arrival at King-Shang, about three miles short of which we passed an island called Shwei-Shan, or Santo-Shan, by us more commonly known by the name

of Silver Island: this was highly wooded, with many handsome buildings amongst the trees, and in its northern channel were two very remarkable rocks, perfectly white. Upon this island had been established an heronry, the heron being considered here, as elsewhere, a royal bird: these were all of a pure white, and had the appearance of being very tame. I could never ascertain if they were in the habit of hawking them, as in many parts, both in Europe and the west of Asia. It was towards evening when we passed, and about a thousand of these sedate-looking birds were perched upon the upper branches of the trees; so thickly were they collected together, as to give an appearance to the wood of being covered with snow. We had much difficulty, on account of the strength of the tide, in passing this island, being whisked about among the eddies and whirlpools of the river, where the ship had no steerage way: this is called by the southern Chinese, Chow-Chow Water, signifying a mixing or mingling, and is applied by them with, apparently to us, great indiscrimination, it being used also to convey the idea of eating, though in that sense not

altogether inaptly, for such mixtures and messes as they seem to devour with relish, would, I really believe, turn the stomach of an Esquimaux. At seven P.M. we anchored about half a mile astern of the Admiral, opposite to whose ship was the southern entrance to the Grand Canal, which ran directly through the suburbs of the town of Ching-kiang-foo, which city from the main-top of our ship gave me the idea of being of great magnitude, in which I was subsequently fully confirmed.

The beautiful island of Kinshan rose, like a fairy queen, out of the river, with its golden-tipped pagoda glittering in the evening sun: all seemed peace and tranquillity. Alas! how soon was all this to be exchanged for the dreary horrors of war, let loose upon this devoted city; which, but for the obstinacy of the Tartar emperor, could so easily have been averted. Scarce had we anchored, when an enormous fire broke out in the town; this must have been ignited by the Chinese, which was a very common method among them to screen the depredations they committed, under cover of the war, upon their defenceless fellow-countrymen,

who, from timidity, had constantly quitted their dwellings, leaving their houses and property, on our approach, to the tender mercies of the mob or our own followers.

The next morning, the fleet of transports not having fully arrived, Lord Saltoun accepted the invitation of the Admiral to accompany him on a survey up the river in the Hon. Comp. S.S. Pluto. About a mile above Kinshan we came to the entrance of the northern Grand Canal, leading to Pekin, and by which supplies from the rich and fertile districts in the south are forwarded to the emperor: all transit by this means was now completely blocked up, which must very soon have acted in a twofold way to his discomfort—both ruining his treasury and making his subjects dissatisfied with his war. The Chinese empire was, by this movement, virtually cut in two, the head no longer having any connexion with the heart and hands of this stupendous body. Opposite to this, and on the south bank, was a small creek, into which had been thrust between 500 and 600 junks, which had fallen into our possession, but which contained scarce anything valuable, having been, with few

exceptions, previously plundered by their crews. The country around seemed no way altered; from the character which it bore below the island of Santo-shan—namely, that of a flat alluvial soil, teeming with vegetation, in the very highest state of culture. Some miles inland we could perceive a range of rather lofty hills, which seemed to run in the direction in which we supposed Nankin to lie. We proceeded on as far as I-chin-heen, a town mentioned by Mr. Ellis, Secretary to Lord Amherst's embassy, as the first at which he stopped, on his partial ascent of this river, prior to their reaching Nankin, on their return from the northern capital. Here we found H.M.S. Dido at anchor; they had already succeeded in establishing a pretty good market, and a certain interchange of civilities with the mandarins of the place, for which her captain was proverbial. It was truly astonishing to see the remains of such an enormous fleet of junks as had been wantonly set fire to by Chinese miscreants, for what reason I never could understand; huge masts and half-burned spars were strewed all over the surface of the river, and the banks were

literally lined with these half-burned wrecks. On our return we discovered that most of the transports had already arrived, and that our commander-in-chief had, with his usual celerity of movement under such circumstances, determined upon landing and storming the town on the following morning, at daybreak. Orders were instantly conveyed by signal to the different ships, which unfortunately were in some instances misunderstood. In consequence of the lateness of the hour and the rapidity of the current, they could not all be conveyed personally.

The portion of duty allotted to our brigade was that of defeating a Tartar camp, which was formed upon some heights overlooking the town, about five miles distant from the river's bank, it being intended that the town itself should occupy the attention of the brigades under Generals Schoede and Bartley, to each of which, as well as to our own, had been allotted a due proportion of artillery and sappers.

CHAPTER IX.

The paddy grounds—Tartar banners—Major Anstruther—The Tartars routed—Death among the troops—Extracts from general orders—Military operations—Detached firing—Tong-chow—Chinese ladies' feet—Plunder in the town—Self-destruction—The military governor—The hiri kari—Curious custom in Japan—Prize agents—Mr. Davis's work—A joey—Clocks—Public buildings—Fears of the people—Amputation of a soldier's arm—Lenity to kidnappers—Sickness in the camp—Cross-bow—Position of the force—Chinese art.

THURSDAY, July 21, must ever be to me a memorable day, as it was the first upon which I met the enemy on the field, and my feelings were naturally somewhat excited on the occasion. We rose long before daylight, and found the steamer in which we were about to disembark, alongside; the disembarkation was accomplished

by ourselves and the regiment on board as expeditiously, and as regularly, as was possible, but in consequence of some misunderstanding regarding the signals or orders, only a portion of our brigade arrived at the appointed spot, although we waited more than two hours for them. As the day advanced, the heat naturally became more oppressive, and but for this accident, the greater part of our day's work might have been more speedily terminated than it was. The lieutenant-general examined, from some neighbouring heights, the encampment the enemy had formed; but from the nature of the ground they had chosen, it was altogether impossible to determine their number. We were then ordered to proceed to attack them with what troops had already arrived; these amounted in the whole to about 1000 men, together with three small field-pieces upon wheelbarrow carriages, it being easier with these to transport guns over the narrow paths which intersect the paddy grounds, and which present such continual difficulties to the movement of troops through the entire cultivated districts of this country.

Making the best of our way over an open country, which appeared to have been used by the inhabitants of this populous town as a burial-ground, and skirting our way through the numerous enclosures which we were obliged to cross, we at last halted when about one thousand yards distant from the encampment of the enemy, from whence we saw that they were drawn out in order of battle, a portion of their force being posted upon the summit of a lofty hill, immediately on our right. It was difficult for us to make any just calculation as to their numbers, but we agreed in thinking they did not exceed 2000 men. This was one of the most interesting moments I had yet known, the first in which the real services of my profession were brought into play. By their dress, we could discover them to be Tartars, not Chinese; and with their numerous banners glittering in the sun, what between their spearmen and their bowmen, they had a somewhat grotesque, though, I am free to confess, an imposing appearance. We made a formation as quickly as the fatigued state of our troops would allow, during which time they kept

up from their destructive ginjalls a pretty smart fire upon us, without our having the power of returning it effectually, uttering at the same time the most discordant and fiendish yells you can by any possibility imagine, which doubtless, in some of their former wars, had been of much service, but which upon this occasion was not likely to be of great avail. Strange to say, this fire had but very little effect, although the balls constantly whizzed around us. Major Anstruther, the officer so long a prisoner at Ningpo, having at last succeeded in getting up his field-pieces, gave them a few rounds, during which time we advanced upon them, but long ere we could approach, they turned and fled, which from their previously determined appearance surprised many of us much; and so expeditiously did they perform this movement, that when we arrived upon the crest of the hill, not a vestige of them could we perceive; on the advance of one of our companies, a few were discovered who had thrown themselves among the bushes for concealment. Many were the sedan-chairs deserted by their owners and bearers, in their hurry to get clear off, and small Tartar ponies

which were loose, the officers whose property they were, rather trusting to their own legs to escape, than to the fleetness of their steeds. We had now liberty to reconnoitre the ground which they had taken up, for to have pursued them would have been pursuing a shade: as was their usual custom, their arms and dress were soon cast aside, and none could tell which was a peasant, which a soldier. We found that they had chosen a most capital position for every emergency, either to fight or fly, as best suited them. Immediately in their rear was a broad paved road, leading from Ching-kiang-foo to Nankin, by which they escaped. A cry was soon raised that the camp was on fire: taking precautions, therefore, to remove the men to a sufficient distance, in case any ammunition should explode, we halted awhile to rest, securing a few trophies, such as banners, bows and arrows, &c. Neither were we much inclined, nor had we great opportunity, to inspect their camp very closely. Chance threw in my way some small written documents, which afterwards I ascertained contained the names of some of the officers and men; indeed, to such a degree of regularity in this

respect are their arrangements carried out, that for many years past a regular list has been published at Pekin of all their superior military officers—much prior to anything like an army list having even been thought of in our own country.

An arrow, which is invariably carried by an aide-de-camp, when he is entrusted with an order by his general, with the hour of the day at which he starts stamped upon it, also fell into my possession.

The excitement being somewhat abated, the heat was now beginning to be severely felt by the men, particularly among those who, for so many months, had had no exercise; numbers were falling out from the ranks, and some—I believe I do not exaggerate when I say nearly a dozen—fell down dead upon the spot. Our first care, therefore, was to march them, as speedily as practicable, to a neighbouring village, taking possession of a number of joss-houses and other buildings, to get them shelter from the sad effects of such a sun. We lost but five men, killed by the enemy's fire, but before night, about twenty of H.M.'s 98th had perished from the effects of *coup de*

soleil. This, indeed, was a sad thing; but we were soon obliged to grow callous to such scenes, for ere the week was past, forty more men in that regiment alone had perished by cholera, brought about by exposure, want of rest, and a too free indulgence in unripe fruits and raw vegetables, which it was impossible for their officers to persuade them from indulging in. I cannot resist giving a short detail of the day's proceedings, which, I fear, is much more interesting to myself than it will be to my readers.

It would, indeed, be out of place for me to continue to give a much longer description of the military movements of this day; suffice it to say, that for some time after we had occupied the village we heard a continued heavy fire.

The disembarkation was commenced on the 21st, at daybreak. The 1st brigade, under Major-general Lord Saltoun, moved forward to attack the intrenched camp, which was gallantly carried about 9 o'clock, after a short resistance, the Chinese precipitately retiring over the hills. Major-general Schoede, with the 2nd brigade, about

the same time ascended the heights assigned to him on the river side, and after discharging some rockets into the city, gallantly pushed forward, under a smart fire of ginjalls and musketry from the walls, and entered that point of the city by escalade, about 10 o'clock. About noon, the arrangements for forcing the west outer gate being completed, it was most effectually blown in, when the 3rd brigade, under Major-general Bartley, accompanied by the Commander-in-Chief, gallantly rushed in, sweeping all before them. The buildings above the gate, in which the Tartar troops had been posted, were at the same time completely enveloped in flames. The Tartars, however, within the city, were still unsubdued; and having collected a large body, the 18th and 49th regiments, in advancing by the ramparts, were suddenly fired upon, and sustained a severe loss in officers and men, although their opponents suffered in a tenfold degree.

The operations of this day were executed under a burning sun, with the thermometer above 90, and the loss of life in consequence was serious.

The loss of the land forces, I fear, was not

less than 30 killed, 110 wounded in action, 3 missing, and about 20 who died from the effects of the sun; that of the Chinese must have been immense, as, independently of those who fell in action, incredible numbers of the Tartars, in some cases including whole families, unhappily died by their own hands. Their force within the city was supposed to have amounted to between 3000 and 4000.

Contrary to the expectation of the Commander-in-Chief, the attack on the town was resisted to the utmost; in many instances the ground was disputed inch by inch; and when our troops had possession of the ramparts, the Tartars still continued to fire from the covert of their garden walls upon our men: it was this spirited, though useless resistance on their part, which caused so great a loss in both men and officers, amounting to about 150 killed and wounded. All was quiet, and every portion in our hands by three o'clock in the afternoon, and many of us courting sleep to the utmost of our power; but, in too many instances, the excitement we had gone through utterly precluded us that refreshment.

In a part of the religious building in which we had taken up our quarters were large stores of rich silks and satins, of the finest Nankin manufacture; these, as you will readily imagine, becoming the lawful *loot** of the captors, were without loss of time divided. The portion, however, which fell to my share, passed into the hands of some one else on its way on board, which many have since told me I well deserved.

During the course of the night we were continually alarmed by a few detached portions of the enemy advancing upon our encampment, and firing into it; this was especially harassing to the troops, as they were obliged to be continually prepared to resist an attack, and could obtain no rest whatever.

One ridiculous scene occurred before daybreak. Our horses, which had been but badly secured, got loose, and instantly commenced fighting with one another; the Native Regiment, half awake, fancied that the Tartars were upon them, and such a rush and confusion as then took place I have rarely ever been a witness to. The first

* *Loot*, Hindostanee for plunder.

thing I observed, upon getting up, was Captain K., who placed himself in a good position to take a cut at my head with my own sword; fortunately, the moon was shining in all her brightness, or I really think some horrid catastrophe would have taken place, mistaking friend for foe. After coming thoroughly to our senses, we were astonished to think we could have been such fools, as out-posts &c. had been regularly posted, and a surprise was totally impossible.

We remained in this village, called Tong-chow, about one week, during which time we were obliged to depend upon the shipping for all our supplies, there being scarce any possibility of purchasing anything, as the neighbouring hamlets had been previously swept bare of fowls, ducks, &c., by the hands of their little scrupulous former *protectors*, the Tartar troops.

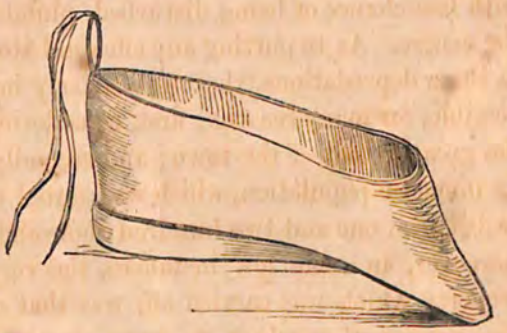
I received a visit on an early day from the doctor of our ship, who was exceedingly anxious to obtain a specimen of a lady's foot, and begged me to assist him in his laudable desire to forward the ends of science. A few hours previously, in my rambles, I had seen a young lady laid out

in her coffin, immediately behind the room we were living in. Having informed him of this, he proceeded to the spot to procure his prize; and very shortly returned with the young lady's pettitoes, wrapped up in his pocket-handkerchief, which some weeks after I saw pickled, after the most approved fashion. I here give a fac-simile of the appearance of one of them.

On our retiring from the village a few days subsequently, no doubt an examina-

tion of the lady took place, when her friends must have been not a little surprised to see that the feet, which so seldom walked before, should, upon our approach, have trotted off, leaving the body behind.

The Chinese ladies are often accused of being cross-tempered; this is not so much to be wondered at, considering how the shoe pinches.



CHINESE LADY'S SHOE.

During the time of our stay I had frequent opportunities of visiting the town, and such a scene as the *tout ensemble* presented I trust I may never see again, and sincerely did I hope that any obstinacy on the part of the authorities at Nankin, might not be the cause of bringing down upon it

a similar fate. Every house was plundered, and an immense portion of the town, in various places, had been set on fire: this was principally the work of the Chinese rabble, who are the readiest at conveying away property, and the most disorderly of any in the world, and were frequently known to set fire to both ends of the street, in order that they might more effectually, and with less chance of being disturbed, plunder the centre. As to putting any effectual stop to these depredations, that was utterly impossible, for many reasons; first, considering the great extent of the town; and secondly, its immense population, which was stated to be between one and two hundred thousand: moreover, in some few instances, the very property which was carried off, was that of the owners themselves, to have deprived them of which, was contrary both to instructions received from head quarters and also to our own wishes, it being the constant desire of our chiefs to impress upon all the troops that the war was not directed against the Chinese people, but against their present rulers. Tartar and Chinese soldiers were lying dead in all directions—women,

either poisoned or with their throats cut by the hands of their own husbands and fathers, and children, by that of their own mothers; while many a poor little infant lay helpless upon the ground, deserted by its unnatural parent, who, from fear of the dreaded barbarians, had terminated her own existence, either by hanging herself in her own house, or drowning herself in one of the small wells in the courtyard of her once happy home. Indeed, to such an incredible extent did this horrid system arrive, that I was assured, by an individual upon whose word I could implicitly rely, that in one house alone, he had counted no less than sixteen women and children, some dead from the effects of poison, but the majority with their throats cut from ear to ear. It would be superfluous to say that I thanked God I had not seen this last sight, so complete or extensive a tragedy not having fallen under my own observation. It is difficult to state the precise reason for this wholesale murder; the only way in which I could account for it was, that the mandarins had taken care to impress upon the people the most outrageous and absurd ideas of the monstrosity and savageness of all our ac-

tions, declaring in proclamations, which they had caused to be freely distributed through the town, that no crimes were too black, no cruelties too great, for us to perpetrate; thus hoping to terrify the people, in which they but too well succeeded, and make them to resist us to the last extremity, trying to make them believe that they had nothing to hope for, upon the capture of the town, but the most cruel of deaths. Many of the soldiers fought with the most determined bravery, hand to hand conflicts being very common; indeed, had it not been for the watchfulness of a marine, the Admiral would, in all probability, have met his death from a Tartar, who, utterly regardless of himself, had approached close to his Excellency, and was only bayoneted when in the act of discharging his matchlock. Every means had been used to stimulate their courage; large bribes of money had been given them, and silver medals, according to Chinese custom, had been distributed *before* the action to the soldiers, rather to stimulate their courage than as a reward and distinction after it should have been completed.

At the capture of this town, the Tartar commander-in-chief, Haeling, was the first to set the example of self-destruction; for upon his discovering that the loss of the post which had been confided to his charge by the supreme authority was unavoidable, and well knowing that no excuse whatever would shield him from the wrath of his *paternal* emperor! he retired into the interior of his house, quietly seated himself in his magisterïal chair, and, with the building, became a prey to the flames, having in the first instance carefully set fire to it with his own hands. The Emperor eventually gave to this noble officer full credit for his magnanimous conduct, issuing an edict upon the occasion, in the following terms:—

"GENERAL HAELING.—It having been fully ascertained, to the entire satisfaction of the imperial mind, that the Tartar General Haeling voluntarily sacrificed his life on account of the loss of the city of Chinkeang-foo, the Emperor, in a late Gazette, issues detailed directions for the highest honours to be paid to his memory, and munificent favours to be shown towards his

wife and all his relations. A splendid temple, in commemoration of his virtues and his unexampled bravery, is to be forthwith erected at Chin-keang-foo, and a tablet, with his name inscribed by the Emperor's own hand, is to be suspended in the hall of the principal temple at Peking."

However much we may condemn these individual acts, or the system of the government whose policy can tend so constantly to their accomplishment, yet we could not but admire the daring courage and determination of those who would rather put a period to their own existence, and also that of those most dear to and honoured by them, than fall into the hands of such bloodthirsty enemies as they had been taught to expect we should prove ourselves to be. It was subsequently reported, that when the Emperor received the despatches detailing these dreadful events, and the rapidity with which they had been consummated, he said—"I perceive you have all been deceiving me; you told me that the red-bristled barbarians were powerful on the waters only, and that so long as we had high walls to our towns there need

be no alarm,—I now find they can fight by land as well as by sea."

In their ideas upon self-destruction they have some affinity with their neighbours in Japan, where suicide is very common; and where, under certain circumstances, it is deemed so honourable, that no man of sense or virtue could even wish to forego it: there it is termed, committing "hiri kari." For instance: any one in the government employ having run the *chance* of incurring the censure of the first authority, or Emperor, (who is there styled by the appellation of the *Siagoon*,) whether deservedly or not, or any individual, who, by misfortune or bad management, has become deeply involved in his affairs, will gather together by invitation his friends and acquaintances, giving them, as far as his means can allow, an entertainment, which, in the case of wealthy government *employés*, is extremely magnificent; towards its conclusion he will take an impressive farewell of them, and in their presence dispose of all his goods &c. according to his wishes, as though he was about to travel to some distant land; which, in truth, in one sense,

he is about too surely to do. He will then quietly seat himself, and with one of the two swords which in the higher grades of life they invariably carry, (amongst whom this honourable custom is much in vogue,) he rips his bowels open in the face of the whole company, who, so far from dissuading him from the action either by entreaty or force, most highly applaud him; and so far from becoming an object of pity to them, he is the envy of those who either are witnesses of the action or to whom it is related.

Although very many rare and curious things fell into the hands of those who took any pains in collecting them, but little specie was discovered in the town, it either having been removed or buried prior to our arrival, for which indeed they had ample time, by reason of our before-mentioned delay at Swei-Shan, or the Admiral's pagoda. Individual instances doubtless did accrue where large sums of Sycee fell into private hands; but those who were sufficiently alive to help themselves to this enticing article, had generally the prudence to stow it away with the utmost dispatch in the ever-ready and

capacious transports, and to say as little about it as possible. The prize-agents, I believe, did not get much more than fifty or sixty thousand dollars—a contemptible sum in a town which, for opulence and trade, ranks among the very first cities in this stupendous monarchy.

Most of us provided ourselves with warm cloaks, which were plentifully strewed about, as we reckoned that we might have to spend the winter in the same latitude; and from the previous accounts which had been given us of the intense cold at that season, we deemed it wise to make some preparation for it. I was fortunate enough to stumble upon some ornaments of jade, which stone, when carved, is very highly prized in the country. It is a species of white agate, of which ornaments of all descriptions are made, both for the adornment of the mandarins' houses, and the persons of their ladies. A fancied value is set upon it, according to the veins which traverse it. I am assured that so small an article as a thumb-ring has been known occasionally to fetch as much as two hundred dollars. It is so well described in Mr. Davis's scientific work

upon China, that it would be but robbing from him were I to attempt a further account of its properties or component parts.

Amongst other articles I procured were two joeys, or battens of office, which are presented by the Emperor to those who are sufficiently fortunate as to render themselves worthy of his notice and favour. They are of very singular construction, being made of wood, studded with Chinese characters, inlaid in silver; and at three different intervals, at equal distances, are set jade stones, beautifully carved, each one smaller than the preceding. At the extremity of one was a silken cord, with the tassel of yellow, denoting it having been presented by the Emperor himself. I was given to understand that it is carried by its fortunate possessor, on state occasions, over the shoulder; indeed, in most of the drawings which I saw of the highest dignitaries, they were generally represented carrying this badge of office in the manner I have described. A few China cups also fell into my possession, which for beauty of manufacture and for the clearness of their porcelain, were

far superior to any that I have either before or since seen, and would gain the heart of many a collector at home.

I moreover procured a very good specimen of the metal mirrors, so much used prior to the introduction of the common quicksilvered glasses. These are highly polished, and covered with characters on the back. It has been stated, that these characters and figures can be seen represented on the face; through the metal I have repeatedly tested the veracity of this story, but never saw one where such was the case.

A friend told me he was much amused, during his walk through the town, by a scene which for novelty was unequalled. Hearing the crash of some fragile substances, accompanied with shouts of boisterous mirth, he went into one of the large rooms of a house which shewed signs of opulence and wealth; his gravity was put to a severe test at seeing some half-dozen men-of-war's men amusing themselves by throwing small European clocks, with which the rooms seemed well stocked, at a huge Dutch time-piece placed upon a side-table; and as each succeeded better than his neighbour in a good

hit, he received the well-merited applause of his companions, giving vent to it in such expressions as, "Go it, my boys!" "That's the time of day!" "Hurrah!"

The walled portion of the town was reckoned about four miles in circumference, which I am inclined to think it exceeded. The suburbs, extending a long distance towards the west, probably occupied an equal extent of ground. The former space was chiefly occupied by streets containing shops, with an occasional blank space of wall, within which were the houses of the most wealthy inhabitants. A very large portion, however, was occupied by gardens and pleasure-grounds, all of which shewed evident signs of great neglect. The suburbs were one dense mass of habitations of two stories in height; the lower portions of which were devoted to the handicraftmen, who employed themselves in them, or to store-rooms, in which merchandise was deposited. There were numerous public buildings, most of them appearing to be of a religious character, either dedicated to Bhudd or Confucius. The part of the town which seemed to have been selected as the residence of the highest authorities, appears

to have been the north-east angle, within the city walls; against which our first attack was directed, and which was so gallantly carried by the brigade under Gen. Schoede.

The coolness of the water in the wells, the weather being intensely hot, had a peculiarly agreeable sensation, were it not in a great measure destroyed by the reflection, that in all probability the purest of these springs had been converted, not only into a receptacle for the dead, but, in too many instances, I am horrified to relate, also for the living. Many an unfortunate misguided wretch did our men succeed in rescuing from an untimely death from such a situation, invariably treating them, to their infinite surprise, with the greatest kindness, at the time when they had been led to conceal themselves, under the idea that nothing short of death awaited them. I am in great hopes that, should the obstinate stupidity of the Emperor or his counsellors ever lead to a second invasion of China, the people will have a very different notion of us, one which, I have no doubt, will induce them to open their gates to us, as the better mode of saving their

property, rather than bring destruction upon themselves and all around them by listening to the ridiculous representations of, or being bamboozled by, their mandarins.

We still retained possession of our quarters outside the walls of Chin-kiang-foo, at Tong-chow, and nightly were regaled with a few shots from the tops of the hills, which, though it did no injury whatever, served to harass and annoy us; in the sequel, it proved far more injurious to themselves and to the poor country people of the neighbourhood, who were occasionally shot at night through their own folly in advancing upon our posts, although notices, translated into Chinese, were posted in all directions round our encampment, warning them of the danger of so doing, as it was utterly impossible for the sentries to know friend from foe in the darkness of the night; and they were of course obliged to fire upon their challenge, though not the least understood, being disregarded. Numbers of these poor fellows were brought daily to our head-quarters, and the fortitude with which they bore the requisite amputations of limbs &c. was truly admirable to witness. One in particular, who was a sol-

dier from some distant country, bore the amputation of his arm in the most exemplary way. He had been shot in the shoulder, and nothing short of taking the limb out of the socket could possibly have arrested mortification and death. This he submitted to while sitting on a stool, during which time, as I was holding the light, I had every opportunity of watching his countenance: he must have undergone intense agony, yet had sufficient presence of mind scarcely to shew it; and in two days after, when I went to visit him, he was eating his rice quite composedly, no inflammation whatever having ensued, which I attributed principally to the diet which these natives are accustomed to use, boiled rice being generally their only nourishment.

Kidnapping our soldiery had always been a favourite scheme of war amongst these people, but I am inclined to think it was not carried on here with any great success. One attempt was made upon our camp, but fortunately the assailants were seized and secured prior to the accomplishment of their design. The manacles, bags, ropes, &c., with which they were provided, were found upon

them. The story they gave of themselves was, that having been under confinement in their own jail for a considerable period, for some state offences, the conditions of their release were, that they should use their utmost endeavours to take bodily possession of as many of the barbarians as they could; fortunately, however, for some poor fellows, they were arrested in this occupation ere its accomplishment. They were five in number, and if their characters could be at all guessed at by their countenances, they must have been of the vilest amongst the community, for a more diabolical looking crew it has scarce ever been my lot to have paraded before me: they were kept in confinement for some short period, but eventually released, I believe, without suffering any punishment—a clemency in which some considered that our commander-in-chief was too prodigal, but that it would have been better policy to have acted severely towards such wretches as these, when we caught them, in order to strike terror into the others. As soon as the sword was sheathed, after the capture of any town, nothing could induce our generous and kind-hearted chief to use the halter, even

upon the most unworthy being within his power, however deserving of it.

Some cases of cholera now began to shew themselves amongst the troops, particularly those lately arrived from home. These, so long cooped up within the narrow limits of their overcrowded ships, were naturally unprepared for such great changes as they had experienced during the week past. Severe bodily fatigue under a burning sun, added to extreme excitement, want of rest, free liberty in eating and drinking; and in many instances that vile poison, sam-shu, no doubt was partaken of; over-indul[illegible] vegetables and unripe fruit;—to [illegible] causes combined may be attribu[illegible] severe sickness under which the[illegible] laboured; for in the corps alone t[illegible] out with us, in less than ten days [illegible] men were numbered with the dead [illegible] quent events led us to regard e[illegible] mortality as light. Indeed, it is pa[illegible] me to revert to the scenes of sickness and of death which eventually overtook so many of those, with whom I had long been placed in such near contact. The officers suffered comparatively much less than the men;

many were attacked with *coup de soleil*, and I think I may make bold to say all, with diarrhœa; but they having been while on shore more prudent in their living, and also having had more space and freer air on ship-board, rallied sooner under these complaints.

On the 26th and 27th a great portion of the walls of the town were thrown down, and a very large breach made in the north-eastern angle, so as to render it completely untenable; their magazines, &c., were destroyed, and large quantities of such *munition de guerre* as bows and arrows, which would seem but of small use to us, were consigned to the flames. Great care was also taken to collect together as many of their ginjals as possible, and to destroy them. I must here mention a cross-bow of very curious construction which fell into my hands; it resembled in its general form that formerly in use with us, but above the barrel was attached a reservoir containing six or seven arrows, and immediately upon one having been discharged a second fell into its place, thus enabling the soldier to eject that number of arrows with the labour

solely of dragging up the string at each successive discharge.

On the following day, the 28th, the town was entirely evacuated by the troops, General Schoode's brigade being posted upon two eminences without the walls, but completely commanding the town; that general fixing his head-quarters at the northern one, opposite to where the wall had been escaladed, and where the large breach was now established—a portion of his force being near him, the remainder completely overlooking the entrance to the grand canal, commanding the western gate of the city itself, and the whole of the suburbs. At each of these well-chosen positions were placed a certain number of guns, with a due proportion of artillerymen to work them if necessity should require their services. Upon the eastern of these eminences stood an iron pagoda, of very beautiful workmanship, and which evidently had been cast not in the whole, at least in stories. The pagoda was of great antiquity, and confirmed the idea to which I have before alluded, that the Chinese must have known the art of casting in iron for

turies; it struck me as singular that here was a building, somewhat in the form of a light-house of cast iron, which work had been completed ages since, while we pride ourselves upon our inventive power, in having within these few years past brought this description of edifice into use.

I cannot omit mentioning a curious incident which occurred, in regard to the conveyance to their position, on one of these hills, some guns which were ordered there. The Chinese, totally unacquainted with the use of wheel-carriages, (except the wheelbarrow, which in this part of the country is in common use among them,) understand better the art of carrying weights, of great specific gravity or bulk, by manual force alone, than any other people in the world. For a considerable time, our artillerymen had been endeavouring, with all their energies, to contrive some means by which they could so divide the weight, as to enable those whom they destined for this work, each to bear an equal proportion, and no one more than he could well endure; but not being able to effect it, they at last determined upon cutting a road up the hill, and dragging the guns up by main

force. At this time, a number of Chinese were looking on, when, to their utmost surprise, seeing these all-powerful enemies so puzzled, they, by signs, entreated to be allowed to try their way. This being acceded to, an elderly man stepped forward, and immediately took the command of the rest, all seeming to give implicit obedience to him; he ordered each one to his proper place, and with ropes and poles, by a simple but ingenious method, common all over this kingdom, he so divided the weight equally among the whole, that, with apparent ease, and with the most perfect success, they transported their burdens to the allotted situations, much to the joy of all those to whom the performance of this operation had been ordered, thereby saving them a tedious and troublesome work, in cutting a road which could be of no subsequent benefit, the narrow footpath already there, being perfectly sufficient for any future exigencies they might require.

Orders were now issued for our re-embarkation, previous to which I walked through some of the neighbouring temples, which had been occupied by our troops. In

one of them I was amused by observing the skill of some wag, who, perceiving that a regiment of gods, with which the building was well supplied, of much the same stature, were, in his opinion, not in a good line—or, to use a military expression, well dressed—after having placed them in their proper stations, he had taken the liberty to paint each with a slight cast in the eye, so as to give them the appearance of dressing by the right.

CHAPTER X.

Westerly winds—Emperor Kein Loong—Pagoda at Kinshan—Iron pagoda—Emperor's chair—Curious gong—United Service Museum—Coxcombs—Pomegranates—Ornaments—Kiang-poo-hein—City of Nankin—Walls of Nankin—Reconnoissances—Yachts—Kwanzin-moon—Tai-ping-moon—Punkas—Tenders of peace—Elipoo—Chinese commissioners—English ensign—Chinese despatch—Negotiations—Climate of Nankin—The bamboo—Friendly meetings—Elipoo's breakfast—The Tartar general—Mandarin tea—Chinese salute.

THE wind continuing to blow strong from the westward, we were for some days unable to sail towards Nankin, where our commanders, both naval and military, had determined to carry the expedition as speedily as possible, well judging that the terror of our arms had a twofold effect, not only from their continued successes, but also from the rapidity and seeming ease with

which we were enabled to perform all our movements. These few days of our detention were employed by our chiefs in writing dispatches relative to the late successes, and by us all in speculating upon the future, the steam-vessels, one and all, using their most active energies in completing themselves in coal from the wharfs adjoining the rivers, numbers of which were well stocked with that most essential article to modern marine warfare. To perform this with greater celerity, we generally contrived to get hold of a number of Chinese, who were liberally paid for their forced labour. Had this large and handy supply not been met with, the movements of the expedition might have been greatly retarded. This interval of four days duration no one much complained of, as a few days rest and quiet were voted equally agreeable to all; it was employed by many of us in looking at some of the singular and interesting spots in the neighbourhood, amongst the first of which I must mention, is Kinshan, or the Golden Island. This is the most surprisingly beautiful little place I ever chanced to visit, either in China or any other country; nature is here most truly assisted by art. When Nankin was

the capital of the country, this must have been in the height of its splendour; the last emperor who inhabited it, and he did so but for a very short time, was Kien-Loong.

There is still one very superb temple, by far the best specimen I had yet met with. This, of course, was filled with gods and demons of all denominations and attributes. The entrée of these figures does not appear to be exclusively restricted to Chinese deities, a clay statue of Napoleon having been found in one of their temples at Amoy, in his cocked-hat and boots; how he got there, it would be difficult to determine. There were numerous other buildings, all exclusively dedicated to the Bhuddist form of worship, amongst which I must not omit to mention a very elegant pagoda, which we ascended by a narrow flight of spiral steps, amounting in number, including those from the base, near the temple, to its summit, to 238. The view from the top of this building was really magnificent, the noble Yang-tse-Kiang the most prominent feature in the landscape; next, the range of hills leading in the direction of Nankin, which had a

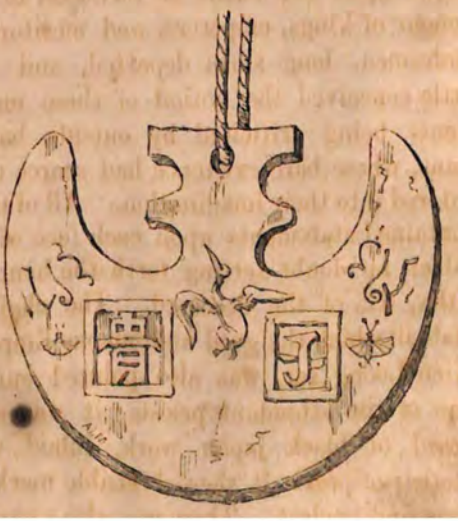
peculiarly pleasing hue in the rays of the setting sun; towards the east was the Island of Santoshan, called by us Silver Mount, in contra-distinction to Kinshan, the Golden Mount; and towards the south-east, the unfortunate wreck of the town of Ching-kiang-foo, now reduced to a most deplorable state, bearing evidence, in no slight degree, of the horrid scourge of war; a large portion still in a huge blaze of fire in two distinct places, so large as to be quite beyond our power to subdue. There was a large library on the island, but which, by the admiral's orders, had been prudently closed to the admission of any one, although I afterwards was given to understand, that this restriction having been taken off, a vast number of the inestimable treasures which it must have possessed were taken away, and, I fear, were devoted, in numberless instances, to destruction and waste. These books were all printed from wooden blocks, the only method used amongst the Chinese; they were each bound up in boards of camphorwood and rosewood, and tied round with silk ribbon.

In front of the largest temple was a curious bronze lion, upon a marble pedestal,

which we all hoped would have found its way to Windsor Castle; but neither this nor the very ancient iron pagoda on the neighbouring eminence, were removed, originating in what many of us, who were accustomed to pocket many a little bijou, considered an over-feeling of delicacy on the part of our commanders. There were numerous other curious and ancient relics, which we had more liberty to examine afterwards, on our return from Nankin down the river; splendid monuments, in marble, raised upon the backs of tortoises, to the honour of kings, emperors, and meritorious statesmen, long since departed, and who little conceived the notion of these monuments being criticised by outside barbarians, whose bare existence had scarce even entered into their imagination. All of these contained statements upon each face of the tablet, no doubt setting forth the honours, titles, &c. of the deceased. The chair of state in which the good and famous Emperor Kien-Loong sat, was also pointed out by one of the attendant priests; it was composed of black japan work, inlaid with mother-of-pearl: it shewed visible marks of time and neglect. There was also a curious

seat, formed entirely of the twisted roots of the vine. This was placed in a very secluded arbour, and is said to have been the favourite resort of one of that emperor's most cherished wives.

Kieng-Loong seems to have had a peculiar affection for this island, having visited it, although at such an immense distance from his capital, Pekin, very frequently during his reign. I also observed a novel and curious description of gong, which emitted a shrill and peculiar but pleasing sound.



While looking at this, one of the poor bonses, or Bhuddhists, expressed his hope, through the interpreter, that we would not take it away, relating, at the same time, a circumstance which happened the night previously. It appeared that some individual in the fleet having here seen a handsome gong, had determined to become possessed of it, and being fully persuaded with the truth of the old adage, that exchange is no robbery, he carefully prepared a substitute of his own for it; this he conveyed, after dark, to the spot where the other was hanging; cutting down the treasure, he replaced it with his own. We needed little persuasion to examine this substitute, when, much to our amusement, we found it nothing more nor less than a large lid of an old tin cooking-pot; the most acute of our party, on looking at the rope by which it was suspended, discovered that the red rogue's yarn of Portsmouth yard was in it, giving a suspicious hint from what quarter this extraordinary and novel musical instrument had arrived, and which otherwise, perhaps, might have been appropriated by the next collector of curiosities, and sent home, with a flaming

account, to the United Service Museum, for which, without doubt, the donor would have been made a patron of the institution for life; and what, perhaps, would be more pleasing to him, have his name recorded in the printed quarterly proceedings, with a vote of thanks for his generosity.

We took an opportunity of paying a visit to the island of Santoshan, which we admired so much a few days previously, on our way up; and a lovelier and more secluded retreat, inhabited by priests alone, no lazy Neapolitan *padre* could have desired to bask his fat carcase in.

The buildings on this island were in a much better state of repair than those on the former, and the priest who received us appeared more cheerful, and altogether in better circumstances than his neighbours at Kinshan. As I before observed, the number of white herons give to the green foliage an appearance of being covered with snow. Never disturbed, they here congregate in thousands, and are considered sacred by the people.

We saw a number of dwarf plants, in the rearing of which the Chinese gardeners, and especially those towards the north, are

particularly skilful. I may here mention that the coxcombs are finer and larger in this country than any I have seen elsewhere, the yellow ones being remarkably graceful, and from their colour considered a royal plant. The chrysanthemums are also reared with much skill, and do ample justice to the pains and labour bestowed upon them. The pomegranate is, perhaps, more admired by themselves than any other tree, if one may judge from the pleasure they seem to take in representing it upon paper, wood, and china. I must not, however, forget here to mention the bamboo, which beautiful and graceful plant gives ample employment to their artists, in the faithful representations they frequently give of it. The lotus is also constantly taken as a design for their ornaments in jade stone, &c.

On Wednesday, August 3rd, everything being ready, the dispatches for home having been sent off, we sailed for Nankin, H.C.S.F. Sesostris taking the Belle-Isle in tow. This day we made very small progress, but on the succeeding one we did much better, arriving within a few miles of Nankin. We passed H.M.S. Dido, which vessel was an-

chored opposite the town of I-ching-heen. The captain having established a market, we were well supplied here with sheep, poultry, and vegetables, the two former of which luxuries were beginning to be scarce. In the evening we anchored opposite a canal, on the north bank of the river, leading to a town called Leuk-ho. A short distance from us, on the southern bank, was a town called Kwan-zin-moon. This is mentioned by Mr. Ellis as one of his resting-places near Nankin, on their return from the northern capital. Little did the peaceful inhabitants of this romantic spot fancy how soon the stormy tide of war would overtake them.

On Friday, August 5th, we weighed at day-break. We observed in the morning a curiously fortified town, on the north bank, a few miles inland. This town shewed signs of having once been very considerable, but, like most places near the ancient capital, was falling into decay. The southern and central provinces being now sacrificed in every way towards the expenses of the new capital, Pekin, where the Tartar Emperor, Touk-wang, holds his court. The walls of this town could not have enclosed an area of less

than ten or twelve square miles, with a few houses in one corner only; indeed, they seemed to have been intended more as defences for the cattle of the inhabitants against a sudden marauding attack, such as they were, prior to their entire subjugation under the Tartar yoke, so constantly subject to, from the migratory hordes. We understood afterwards that it was devoted to a deer park, the wall serving to prevent them from straying into the neighbouring country. This town was called Kiang-poo-hein.

At two o'clock, we came to anchor under the walls of the far-famed Nankin, opposite to a lofty knoll within the inner wall, called Se-te-shan, or the Lion's Mount; from the summit of which some of those composing a portion of Lord Amherst's embassy first beheld the city, but which, from the appearance of the number of troops stationed near it, would cost us somewhat more pains and trouble to surmount than it cost them. As we were approaching this spot we had a distant, very distant, view, of the porcelain tower, which Se-te-shan speedily shut out of our sight. Immediately in front of us was

a newly fortified bastion, evidently a recently repaired part of the old wall, a precaution they had adopted with every portion within our view, replacing the decayed embrasures with bags of sand; peeping from behind them we could discern an immense number of troops, some of the higher ranks being clothed in yellow silk dresses, which we supposed to denote their relationship to the reigning family, and consequently, we concluded, Tartars of some distinction. Displayed on the conspicuous places on the walls were flags of truce, and chops were constantly arriving with proposals from the authorities for negotiation, the results of which we could in no way prognosticate.

From our present position, we could nowhere discover any quantity of houses within the walls, which appeared singular, as we knew that we were before one of the largest cities in the world; we had yet, however, to learn the immense space of ground which was enclosed, the extent of which we had at that time no notion. The walls, moreover, appeared of great height and strength—of far greater consequence than extent, in our eye—as we naturally supposed that the

work of getting either over or through them was the principal object in view. In the rear, of where we supposed the city to lie, was a range of hills, partially clothed with verdure, the country assuming a far more pleasing aspect, being relieved from the dull sameness of a perpetual sea of paddy fields. Five or six days elapsed ere all the transports were collected together. Each day flags of truce were coming off; the chiefs, mandarins, the governor of the province, &c., making the most strenuous endeavours, short of the actual concessions sought by our government, to endeavour to persuade us to stay our belligerent proceedings, at all events until they should receive further instructions from the Emperor, which, they now said, they felt confident would soon arrive, directing them in his name to accept such terms as we should deem perfectly satisfactory.

Former experience had taught our plenipotentiaries to know that they were far too crafty a set for us to listen to for one moment, unless they could produce letters of undoubted credence from Pekin; and the most active proceedings were continued on

our part in the arrangements for the reduction of the place; while such reconnoissances of the neighbourhood as were feasible were made both by naval and military officers. During this delay, some of the officers, whose ships had been left below, guarding the different creeks and entrances to the river, joined us in junks which they had fitted up for yachts; I do not say they could have passed muster among the R.Y.S., but they were very comfortable, and most perfectly answered all their purposes. The centre of the vessel is used as the living cabin, the *stern* for cooking, and in the bows was a large sleeping apartment—thus reversing our order of things. Ten or a dozen English seamen worked the junk, which they managed to do with ease and dexterity; in some instances, they had a Chinese crew, who seemed delighted to enrol themselves upon the books of their new masters, receiving an unlimited supply of rice, sugar, tea, &c., which these boats had been found to be laden with. Any portion of this cargo being needed by a friend, was freely bestowed—the only return required being the same weight of stones, by way of ballast,

which, in this alluvial soil, was very difficult to obtain. Some as social hours have probably been spent, in the far distant Yang-tse-kiang, in one of these yachts, as have been enjoyed in the largest and finest crafts that ever sailed for a cup at Cowes.

Orders were now promulgated for landing a portion of the troops some distance down the river, at the before-mentioned town of Kwan-zin-moon, and, on the 11th of July, we disembarked at this town, situated at an ancient gate in the original and outer walls of this formerly stupendous city, from the centre of the present inhabited portion of which we were now at least ten miles distant. These walls, which extended formerly both to the westward and southward, have almost entirely fallen into decay, the site only being traceable; this gate having been situated in the north-eastern angle. They are stated to have been sixty English miles in extent, the walls to the present inner town being twenty-one; which, from subsequent opportunities I had of judging, I am by no means inclined to doubt.

About 10 A. M., with a small portion of the troops, we pushed on in the direction of

the inner city, the scared inhabitants flying before us in all directions, our utmost endeavours being vain to induce them to believe no injury was intended to them. Having proceeded over the best road I had yet seen in China—being a paved one about ten feet wide, between paddy fields—we halted upon a slight eminence, about half way to the Mount. Some time after, instructions arrived from Sir Hugh Gough, (who had landed near the base of a low hill, nearer to the Lion's Mount,) that we should place the men under cover, and occupy a small town called Ma-kier-kiow, which was situated about half way between the Kwan-zin-moon and the Tai-ping gate, which latter was upon the east face of the city, and the one nearest to that portion of it inhabited by Tartars. This was speedily accomplished, and with feelings of no ordinary pleasure, the day being most insupportably hot; the troops which Sir Hugh had taken with himself, occupying at the time a joss-house, mid-way between our position and the Se-te-shan creek, in which H. M. S. Blonde was anchored, from the commanding position which they had taken up, completely

overlooking the northern portion of the city, the Se-a-shing gate being just under them, distant about one mile.

We here found everything prepared for our comfort and accommodation — capital houses, well furnished with chairs, tables, and beds, with mosquito curtains, and a profusion of china,—everything, with the exception of the punka, the first care of an old Indian, and which were speedily rigged up in each officer's quarter. They consist of an oblong frame of wood, covered with matting or other light material. This is suspended in the centre of the room; to its base is attached a long piece of cord, by which means a boy, stationed at a distance, moves it alternately backwards and forwards, some small art being required to cause its motion to be gentle and regular, neither allowing the wind to be unpleasantly strong, nor for one instant to cease altogether, but continually stirring the sluggish air into a refreshing breeze. On quitting each quarter, these were generally left behind; and I sincerely hope, both for their own sakes and for ours, should we ever visit the spot again, that the de-

scendants of Han will profit by the models we have left behind, and adopt them in all their houses, for I am free to confess, that I consider the original inventor as worthy of being immortalized.

In the same house with ourselves, which was of considerable extent, and could not have contained less than 150 rooms, were also domiciled a large number of troops, amusing themselves by ransacking the ladies' wardrobes, &c., the late tenants of the mansion.

On looking through some of the rooms on the following morning, we chanced to find twelve poor women who had remained in a fearful state of suspense through the whole night, hid in a straw stove. On our entreating them by signs to come out and follow their families to some neighbouring village, the utmost fear and anguish was depicted upon their countenances. Having seen them escorted to the frontier of our lines, with care and attention, their extreme gratitude and delight knew no bounds, thinking lightly of losing all their pretty dresses, and their happy homes being plundered, in consideration of their honour being sacred.

During this and the succeeding day, by the active exertions of the artillerymen, the guns, stores, &c., were landed and brought forward to our position, and were ready for breaching the walls in the most favourable spot which the engineers should point out; but as it was still distant from us two or three miles, the transport of the heavy artillery would have taken one, if not two days more, ere it could have been put into position, and probably, from the nature of the country, we should have sustained a considerable loss from the well plied ginjals of the enemy, secured as they would have been behind the parapets of their high wall.

Elipoo, the imperial high commissioner, then resident in Nankin, seeing matters had now arrived at so desperate a crisis, and that further delay on his part would, ere many hours, inevitably lead to the capture of the capital—a thing which would strike a blow, both politically and morally, that could not fail to be felt from one end to the other of this vast fabric, which had so long held together, and which possibly might be the means of so far disuniting it, as to render it completely beyond the power of man ever to re-

unite—Elipoo, always a strenuous advocate for peace, sent to Sir Henry Pottinger to say, that he was entrusted by his imperial majesty with full powers to treat, but which he fairly allowed he was not empowered to use until he saw that there was no other alternative; he entreated his excellency to listen to such reasonable and honourable terms as would be fitting for sô powerful a nation as we now had evidently proved ourselves, to grant, and which, at the same time, would in no way be derogatory for the emperor of so stupendous a monarchy to sue for; and, above all things, to spare the ancient capital of the empire from a like desolation, which had been occasioned by our recent visit to the ill-fated city of Ching-kiang-foo. Sir Henry Pottinger having ascertained that these powers from the emperor were undoubted, immediately requested the commanders, both military and naval, to stay all belligerent proceedings. Numerous meetings now took place on both sides—the Chinese commissioners, New-Keen, Elipoo, and Ukeen, on the one hand, and Sir H. Pottinger, H.B.M.'s plenipotentiary, assisted by his interpreters on the other. Messen-

gers were daily dispatched to Pekin, detailing the results of these proceedings; and we leisurely awaited the pleasure of his imperial majesty as to whether he would consent to the terms imposed by us—namely, to indemnify us for the total expenses of a war which was forced upon us by the obstinacy of himself and his advisers, amounting in all to no less a sum than twenty-six millions of dollars, or whether he would still allow an army, recently flushed with conquest, eager for future honours and spoils, to ransack and destroy his cities, and eat the very vitals of this magnificent empire, where he was supposed to reign paramount, and consequently bound to protect both from internal strife and foreign aggression, by the very tie which created him their ruler.

We had many reasons for prognosticating that the emperor would certainly now come to terms. The inhabitants on all sides were loud in their complaints, regarding the hardships they were daily undergoing, on account of these protracted warlike operations, which were of benefit to no one class of the community, save and except the very dregs of the

people at the expense of the rest; and many even openly avowed their readiness to submit themselves to our government, entreating us to present them with our national standard, or, as they designated it, the red flag with the flowers in the corner, and to grant them protection upon their hoisting it, which they stated would instantly be done, upon the walls of every town and city of the south and central China, provided we would but *insure* to them British protection: to this request there was no intention of complying, the home instructions being, as I then understood, peremptory to make no territorial conquest or aggrandizement, nor by any means to spread the seed of revolution with the intent of subverting the present government. Some there were sufficiently short-sighted as to condemn this wise measure, which was so strictly acted up to, looking solely to the present, without regard to the future, and by no means considering either the justice, humanity, or policy of its being "much better to trade rather than to fight with" this stupendous fabric of a nation. It may here be worthy of mention, that, shortly before this, on our

arrival at Nankin, a curious dispatch had been seized on its way from Elipoo to the emperor, of the authenticity of which there could be no doubt. This contained a true and correct account of our strength, the victories we had achieved, of our having proceeded towards the ancient capital, and of our having destroyed Ching-kiang-foo, and stated very plainly that it would be dangerous to himself to protract making peace any longer; it dwelt most feelingly upon the misery brought upon the whole community by our remaining as a scourge amongst the inhabitants. It spoke of us as a wonderful people—here one day, and some hundred lye* distant on the following—and implored the emperor to spare his subjects and his country, by removing at any sacrifice, ere it was too late, the authors of all this misery, and cause them again to turn their steps towards the outer waters. This appeal to his imperial majesty was written in the most abject and submissive tone, but withal contained such firm and decided language, and in its style was so beautiful that it would have done credit to a first-rate European diplomatist.

* A lye is about three-quarters of an English mile.

On our second day at Ma-kier-kiow, a report reached us that some of the officers were being murdered in a joss-house, about four miles distant; we instantly dispatched some assistance to them. The sequel proved that some little foundation certainly existed for the report. A party from the neighbouring cantonment, entirely unarmed, had been furtively spying about, searching for fowls, &c., the timidity of the inhabitants having caused them to fail in bringing those requisite articles to sell. The poor people fancying the officers were going to injure their families, instantly attacked them with hoes, &c., and some severe wounds and loss of life would have ensued, had they not made a very hasty retreat.

We had now all made up our minds that negotiation rather than fighting was to be the order of the day, and having settled ourselves quietly at Ma-kier-kiow, we employed the time, each morning and evening, in roaming about the neighbourhood—that is, as much as the sun would allow us. This village was situated entirely amongst paddy fields, which having been neglected through the fears of the inhabitants at our

approach, now began to throw out an unwholesome and pestilential odour from the want of sufficient water not being allowed to flow over them; this, together with the changeableness of the climate, heavy rains succeeded by a scorching sun, had its effect upon most of us, either causing fever and ague, or dysentery and diarrhœa. The country, within a distance we considered it prudent to visit—which distance daily increased according as we found the inhabitants, either through their fears or their natural good intentions, did not desire to molest us; —was very beautiful. Trees of all climates were seen flourishing in the same spot; and here—unlike most other countries in the same latitude, in the place of parched sterility in the months of August and September, with a ground dried up and cracked in all directions — the greenest verdure met the eye in every direction, continually renovated by the refreshing showers which were seldom unremitted for many days together. The whole country had the appearance of one large garden, interspersed with shrubberies. A curious property this climate and soil seemed to possess, by no

means common to all, was that of being able to nourish trees and plants of different climes and hemispheres in one and the same soil; for instance, I have seen to flourish, within a few yards of each other, the Scotch fir, the tea-plant, and the bamboo. I am not aware if the cultivation of this last-mentioned tree has ever been tried upon a large scale in Europe. I do not remember ever to have seen it myself, but I can see no reason why it should not, in very many places, succeed most admirably, especially where it can procure sufficient moisture, which, indeed, seems necessary for its existence, nearly as much so as for the willow. Among the whole catalogue of trees, there is none turned to such diversified uses as this, combining the most opposite, but at the same time essential qualities, being the lightest, the most pliable, and the toughest wood we have. Its application to useful purposes are perfectly innumerable, rendering it the most invaluable of plants; besides being subjected to the ordeal of the knife and chisel, it moreover forms a luxurious dainty for the table; the young shoots, when boiled, become a most delicious vege-

table, somewhat resembling asparagus, and which it would be as well for any person to bear in mind who may possess it in their green-houses at home. Indeed, if it were for this sole purpose, it would, in my opinion, well repay its introduction into our own country. They also make an excellent preserve of it, with sugar-candy; and when proper care has been taken in its manufacture, it is considered equal, and by many superior, to preserved ginger. I almost think it would succeed even in our own country, for the winter in central China is considered by many quite as severe as in our own, the snow lying on the ground for three or four weeks at a time, and the ice as plentiful as at home. Perhaps the strength of the summer sun, which is indeed here sufficient to scorch the very brain, may be requisite to bring it to a great state of perfection; but I am inclined to think that a careful cultivation would in a great measure supply this deficiency; at all events it would be well worth a trial, and its successful cultivation could not do otherwise than prove a source of great benefit to any country in which it was introduced. This will be the

more fully understood by any person who has been a witness to the manifold uses to which it is turned in all those countries where it at present flourishes.

Friendly meetings now occasionally took place, many of the mandarins going on board H. C. S. F. Queen, the vessel appropriated to the use of Sir H. Pottinger and his interpreters. He, on the other hand, meeting them in some of the public buildings on the outside of the city. After the lapse of a few days, and while these negotiations were going on to the satisfaction of both parties, Elipoo, and the other chief commissioners, tendered an invitation to the heads of our naval and military authorities, to a breakfast, which it was their wish to give in a large joss-house, immediately in front of where H. B. M.'s fleet were anchored. This was accepted with pleasure, notice being sent to all officers who wished to attend that they had free liberty granted to do so. The meeting of those so recently in arms one against the other, now upon a friendly footing, was curious, and worthy of description; for I must add that, on both sides, all animosity seemed to be entirely laid aside,

and nothing but good will to be the order of the day. Upon our landing on the banks of the canal, at one of the triumphal arches which are so constantly to be found placed over the road leading to any building of note, sedan chairs were in attendance, to convey any of us who might not wish to walk to the audience chamber, a distance of three or four hundred yards. On coming into the inner gateway, the band of the commissioners struck up a tune which, perchance, was meant—"God save the Emperor!" It, however, bore no resemblance to our national anthem. Here excellence seemed to lie more in the strength of lungs and force of arms which they displayed in the use of the trumpet and drum, rather than in any modulation of tones.

We passed between a file of soldiers, who lined the way on either side, about three paces distant from each other, fine-looking men, and doubtless not chosen from among the worst-looking troops in the town. We were then ushered into the presence of the commissioners themselves, who were seated at the top of a table covered with sweetmeats, fruits, cakes, &c., chairs being left

for the plenipotentiary, the generals, and the admiral, and a number of seats being arranged on each side for the officers of either of our services who had come to witness the meeting, a vast number of whom were in attendance. Elipoo, in particular, appeared a fine old man, his countenance beaming with intelligence and kindness. Had the advice he gave been adopted at an earlier period by the court of Pekin, how much bloodshed, how much ruin and devastation, and what an immense amount of treasure, and—what was, probably, felt far more keenly by the emperor—how much humiliation would it not have spared China! What desolation, misery, and suffering would it not have averted from thousands of his subjects. All three commissioners were very affable, making constant inquiries as to the rank of the different officers who were presented to them. The Tartar general pleaded sickness as an excuse for his non-attendance at this meeting, which could have been anything but a pleasing spectacle for him to witness—more particularly in the presence of a portion of his own troops,—comparatively but a handful of men dic-

tating terms to the commissioners of an emperor, who, until that moment, had shewn so great a contempt for the Fanqui, that he had constantly refused them admission to his presence, unless coupled with such degrading and humiliating observances as the Kow-Tow, which inhabitants of any free and enlightened nation would not dream of paying, save only to the Deity himself. We partook of a great number of curious dainties, preserved fruits, and sundry cups of a very peculiar tea, highly perfumed, of a light green colour, the leaves of which were allowed to remain at the bottom of each cup. This we drank without cream or sugar. Next, we tasted some very excellent wine, which we were told had been extracted from grapes, both of which were served to us by the hands of mandarins, with brass buttons, a mark of distinction such as had never been shewn upon any previous occasion. During our repast, we were regaled by the *dulcet* sounds of some instruments which resembled very much, in their joint effect, the Highland bagpipes. These composed the private band of his excellency Elipoo. After a martial air or two having

been played by the band of H. M.'s 18th Royal Irish, at which the Chinese seemed both delighted and amused, we took our leave, a Chinese salute of three guns being fired, as well upon our departure as our arrival; which number seems equally to be allotted to the highest as well as to a lesser mandarin, should he be entitled to a salute at all. The same evening we arrived at our post, highly delighted with the strange drama we had witnessed.

It was a singular circumstance, that, at this said breakfast, one of our chief interpreters was waited upon by a mandarin of consideration, who had received the actual button and peacock's tail he then wore by sanction of the emperor, for having, a year previously, stated that he had put to death, at Amoy, the very gentleman whom he then attended. Indeed, so great is their vanity, that, upon the second taking of that city, many representations adorned the walls, shewing with what glorious success they had repeatedly worsted the foreign barbarians.

Truth is by no means so highly looked up to on this side of the globe as it is on the other; for instance, when it was reported to

the emperor that H. B. M.'s plenipotentiary had publicly stated his intention of proceeding to the north with the army, his imperial majesty set it down as positively certain that we were all about to decamp home—remarking, sagely enough as he thought, that the very act of our making no secret of our intention of proceeding to the north, was a sure sign we intended to take the opposite course. A few weeks, however, were sufficient to convince him of his error.

CHAPTER XI.

Tartar city—Porcelain tower—A large plain—Tombs of the Mings—Representation of animals—The causeway to the mausoleum—Remains of three bridges—Temple dedicated to Confucius—The Ming dynasty—The porcelain pagoda—The astonishment of the people—A space in front of the pagoda—Ma-tso-poo—View from the summit—Walls of the city—Height of the tower—Age of the tower—Pagoda of gratitude—Glazed tiles—Lamps—Chinese account—The queen's health—Chinese worship—Gambling with the gods—High priest of the temple—Chinese salutations—Return home—Bad English propensity.

MATTERS now appearing to be conducted upon such a satisfactory footing, a party of us determined to make an attempt to visit the far-famed porcelain pagoda, which fortunately was not situated within the inner walls of the city, all entry to which being most rigidly prohibited, in the most

quiet, yet determined way — namely, by shutting the gates in the faces of any who even made the attempt.

Leaving Ma-kier-kiow, about 5 A.M., we rode in the direction of one of the gates of the city called the Tai-ping, thinking the best plan would be to skirt as closely as possible the city walls; for, having no guides, and but one of our party understanding a word of the language, to get to the tower was not an easy undertaking, but by this means we felt pretty sure we should eventually find our way to the object of our search. Having proceeded about three miles, we came upon a space of ground at the base of a range of hills, just without the eastern angle of the city, and although at a distance of only half-musket shot from the walls, we were so much elevated above them, as to be enabled to command an entire view of the greater portion of the town. The Tartar city being very distinctly separated from the remainder by a high wall, containing, as is constantly the custom, within its limits some delightful gardens and pleasure-grounds, temples, &c.; and in its centre, surrounded by a wide wet ditch and very

high wall, was the Tartar governor's residence, formerly the palace of the ancient Chinese emperors. Three-fourths of the town itself was, in like manner, devoted to shrubberies and gardens, but the remaining fourth, at present known by the name of King-nan-foo, appeared one dense mass of houses, but these then lay at far too great a distance to be clearly defined by us, even with the assistance of a telescope; from behind this, the object we wished to attain, the porcelain tower, stood out in bold relief, a most prominent figure in the picture, lit up by the rays of the morning sun, distant from us, in a direct line, from five to six miles.

I am ashamed to say there were many who could not restrain the wish, that we should be allowed to enter this fine city in the character of conquerors, knowing that it lay, as it were, so entirely within our grasp; yet when we came quietly to canvass the horrors which would inevitably ensue, and to call to our recollections the dreadful scenes which had so recently occurred at the towns we had just left, which would unquestionably be re-enacted here—

scenes the bare recollection of which made the blood thrill through our veins with horror—there was not, I am sure, one man present who did not wish that negotiations so happily commenced, should be allowed quietly to proceed, and that this now happy city should be spared.

Proceeding onwards, we came to a large plain, upon a rising piece of ground, in the centre of which were apparently two very ancient solid buildings, the base of each was composed of finely polished marble; these were stated to be the burial places of the ancient Ming dynasty. Allowing our baskets of provisions to precede us a little, we deviated from the direct route to visit these curious monuments; a few words descriptive of what I was enabled, upon this

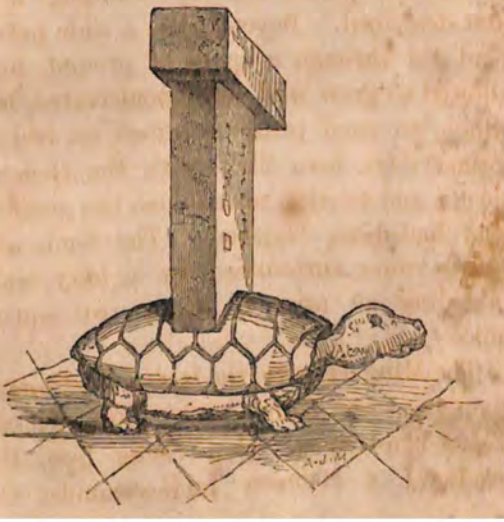
TOMBS OF THE MINGS.

hasty glance, to see of them, I will here give. The south being assuredly the way by which proceeded the funeral processions of the illustrious individuals whose place of burial this was, I will commence by stating, that the first objects which attracted our attention were the two before mentioned massive structures, which appeared as if intended to represent a colossal gateway—one standing on either side of a long causeway, which is now, I am sorry to say, very much dilapidated, but which leaves evident traces of having been once a fine piece of art, being formed of neat slabs of stone nicely joined together. Each of these large structures were of an oblong form, having many arches on either side, and containing a chamber within, in the centre of which was a figure of a tortoise, with a pyramidical stone supported upon its back, about thirty feet high, upon either side of this being engraved numerous characters in the Chinese language. Whether these buildings had ever been roofed or not, I had not sufficient time to determine, but their upper portions were somewhat decayed. Passing between these two structures, upon

the narrow path I have before mentioned, and over a small stone bridge, we came upon a row of beasts, carved in stone, each of its own species opposite the other, about fifty yards apart, one on either side of the road. Elephants took the first place, next the lions, the rhinoceroses, the camels, and horses; these were very tolerably executed, and probably were representations of the animals which may have inhabited this part of the country at the time when these figures were designed, but many of which have now,

even including the horse, disappeared. The elephant is certainly never used as a beast of burden among the Chinese of the present age, except, perhaps, in Cochin-China, bordering upon the Burmese Empire, nor, I believe, is the camel. As for the lion or rhinoceros, they seem to have deserted the country, retiring before the countless multitudes of human beings which now inhabit it, if ever they found a place there at all; and the breed of wretched little animals occasionally in use among the mandarins, for the purpose of conveying their dispatches, by no means deserve to be classed under the appellation of that noble animal, which we know by the name of a horse. Having passed between these figures, the road suddenly took a turn to the right, and leaving what, by the ruins, must once have been a colossal gateway. Placed on either side of the way, but at a less distance from each other, were figures cut in stone representing men, each of which were about ten feet in height; first warriors, next civilians, judges, statesmen, and lastly, nearest to the mausoleum to which we were approaching, were represented priests. These were placed in

pairs, the one facing the other, in the same way that the animals were which we met with first. We then went through a gateway with a triple arch, immediately after which were the remains of three bridges. A short distance beyond, again, was represented the figure of a tortoise, supporting a lofty pillar of finely polished marble, covered with characters, and somewhat larger than the former. Under this, fancy led us to presume that the bodies of the ancient Mings now rested; but whether this supposition



be correct or not, we could find no one whom we could sufficiently rely upon to inform us.

Beyond this tomb, we entered a spacious and very lofty chamber, the roof of which was supported by eight columns of wood; it was seventy-five paces in length and thirty-five broad; it was now used as a temple, dedicated to Confucius, and probably had, in this particular, been in no way changed from the purpose for which it was originally erected; but, from its appearance, I should conceive that it must have been a work of a much later period than the buildings I at first described. Beyond this, a wide paved road led through a space of ground, now allowed to grow wild and uncultivated, but which, an aged priest informed us, had in former days been filled with the choicest shrubs and exotics, upon which the greatest care had been lavished. The tomb and temple were surrounded by a lofty wall, including an area of about two square miles.

The Ming dynasty, the last of the Chinese Emperors, was founded A.D. 1368, by one Tchu-zuen-tchung, who, rising from the grade of a common soldier amidst the

troubles of the times, succeeded in getting immense numbers to surround his standard, and finally drove the Mongul Tartars, who had usurped the government of the country, entirely out of the kingdom. Having taken a far too hasty view of this curious spot, we were obliged to resume our route to the tower, and soon overtook the remainder of the party, who, from the difficulty which they had experienced in finding the proper road, had not preceded us a very great distance. We then had to traverse the whole range of the southern face of the Tartar city. During our progress, the walls were crowded with soldiery, wondering what could be our purpose in thus audaciously, and with so small a party, straying beyond our own lines into the heart of their country; they did not, however, evince the least bad feeling towards those who so recently, and so constantly, had defeated them; but, on the contrary, saluted us after the fashion of the country, and even went so far as to lower lights from the walls for our cigars, upon being requested to do so. Having passed through two small suburb towns, each at a gate of the city, and having followed the

course of a large canal, which in many places runs close under the walls, forming a ditch of immense magnitude and depth, we at last entered the suburbs of the south-west gate, in the centre of which the Porcelain Pagoda is situated. The throng of people which now surrounded us can scarcely be imagined, all shewing the greatest astonishment at our approach; nor is this in the smallest degree to be wondered at, when it is taken into consideration that one in a thousand had never before seen a foreigner, and two years previously had scarcely heard such people existed—much less did they expect to see them so near their capital; these, too, the dreaded barbarians, of whom, by order of their rulers, such terrible accounts were published, describing us in their proclamations as the greatest monsters conceivable—regardless of laws, both moral and divine, whose ferocity nothing could subdue, and to whose cruelties there were no bounds, imputing to our hands all the terrible scenes of death and destruction which had occurred since the commencement of hostilities. How astounded must they have been to have seen these cruel monsters quietly riding,

unarmed, out of uniform, into the midst of them, with a laugh upon every countenance; and what, again, was their astonishment upon seeing us pay for eggs, poultry, &c., and all else we needed for our tiffin. Dense crowds wedged us in on all sides, and no sooner had one batch satisfied a portion of their curiosity than others were anxious for their places. I did not, however, observe a single rude or uncourteous action; they invariably gave way when a sign was given to them to do so by their superiors in age or station; order and obedience seemed so thoroughly to be engrafted into the minds of every class throughout this country; indeed, it is charming to see the respect they pay to all having authority over them—it bears much more a filial than a slavish character.

Making a few turnings among the narrow streets, we came to a large space, from which two gateways lead into the outer or lower court of the far-famed tower; we entered, and dismounted from our horses, delighted to obtain shelter, both from the crowds of people and from the heat of the sun, which now, at 9 A.M., was beginning to be op-

pressively hot. Leaving our horses in this yard, to the care of our grooms, we mounted a handsome flight of stone stairs, and in a few minutes were within the lower story of the tower, thereby escaping, to a certain extent, the crowds of spectators, who, utterly regardless of the sun, remained during the entire day, thronging the verandah which encircles it. Having refreshed ourselves with a substantial breakfast, we mounted to the top of the tower, passing through each of the octagonal stories, which, all the world knows, consists of nine; each of these the least degree smaller than the preceding, thus gradually becoming more slender towards its summit. Each apartment has its deity—one in the Bhuddist Calendar, to which form of worship this temple is dedicated, the walls of every one being composed of gilt tiles, representing the same figure, Ma-tso-poo, or the Queen of Heaven. But in each apartment these tiles diminished in size, conformably to the size of the room itself; from one to the other was a very narrow staircase, the first few steps of brick, the remainder of wood. With perhaps this exception, their respective size and a

small difference in regard to the deities enthroned in them, one was a fac-simile of the other. On arriving at the highest, we reached the broad grating with which the windows were provided, and some, whose heads could bear the giddy height, proceeded upon the balcony on the outside, which was without any railing. A few feet above our heads was the golden pear, set upon a light frame of iron work, from each side of which descended a chain to every one of the eight angles of the roof.* The views from the summit filled us all with admiration: the whole town of Nankin was now laid out before us. A gigantic city it appeared to be; the south-western portion was one dense mass of habitations—so thickly inhabited did it seem, that I can readily believe the attendant priest spoke truly, when he stated that it at present contained more than a million of souls; the masts of some of our shipping appeared in

* Extreme height of the tower, 261 feet; top story, 200 feet; diameter, outside stone verandah, 96 feet; tower itself, inside verandah, 84 feet; diameter, inside of the tower, 46 feet; thickness of wall, 10 feet 6 inches at base.

the distance, beyond the Loo-Lung hills, about six miles from us.

The entire circumference of the wall I should guess at twenty-one miles, including the Tartar portion, which was quite distinct, as I have already stated, and situated at the south-east angle of the whole. This was a long line to be defended, against however small a force, when properly applied, and would have given quite sufficient work to the garrison, although their numbers were stated (with what truth never could be determined) to amount to 20,000 men; but which, very possibly, including the militia, may have been the case. The wall in all directions was white with the little tents which were peeping over its parapets. We could now very clearly perceive that three-fourths was surrounded by the deep canal of which I before spoke, and that the weakest point to attack was the eastern angle, near to the Ty-Ping gate, which we had passed near in the morning.

We next examined the beautiful porcelain, with which the exterior of the building is covered, as well as the interior, and the neat and finished way in which these tiles

were joined together, gave to the whole, at a very short distance, an appearance of actually being made of one entire piece; the many coloured tiles used in its manufacture being diversified into a thousand curious and grotesque patterns, the woodwork of the balconies with which each story is surrounded, together with their corresponding roofs, being painted and carved so as to resemble porcelain. Upon a rough calculation, which is all I pretended to make at that time, the tower is about two hundred and seventy feet from its base to the golden pear-shaped ball at its summit; and the lower story in circumference, including the balcony, about forty paces.

Altogether, it is one of the most unique and beautiful buildings in the world, differing so totally from anything which I had previously seen or met with in any other country I have visited; and in the opinion of all present, it far surpassed the previous notions they had formed of it—a thing, perhaps, of rare occurrence, people being generally disappointed than otherwise with what they hear so much about. The more we examined it the more pleasure had we in doing

so; nor could we divest ourselves of that invidious satisfaction, that as we were almost the first Europeans which had seen it, we should, perhaps, for many centuries, be amongst the last to do so.

A woodcut of the tower, together with a short description of it, was sold to the visitors for a few cash,* from which I will here quote a line or two, having received a translation of it from a friend. The paper stated, that "a pagoda had been, at various times, erected on the spot where the present porcelain tower stands, records of which are still retained as far back as the second century of the present Christian era, each successively, as they fell into decay or were destroyed by fire, being replaced, either at the expense of government or by funds supplied from the generosity of some pious private individual. The credit of rebuilding the present edifice is ascribed to two very celebrated emperors. The usurper, Gong-Lo, (a monarch of the Ming house,) being about to remove his capital to the north, erected this pagoda in

* A cash is a small copper coin with a hole in the centre, twelve hundred of which are about the value of one Spanish dollar.

honour of his mother, the celebrated spouse of Hang-Woo, as a tribute to her worth, and calling it the Pagoda of Gratitude, Paon-gan-tai, or Paont-gan-she.

The pagoda, it states, was commenced in the tenth year of Gong-Lo, and was not finished until the seventh year of Lenatik, taking a period of nineteen years for its accomplishment. It was built under the directions of one Whang-ghe-tai, a member of the Board of Public Works, and cost, so says this chronicle, 2,485,484 tales of silver, or 621,371*l.* sterling. It is 329 covils 4 inches in height, having nine stories, with a golden globe on its top. The colours were given to the stones partly by a kind of gilt amalgame, and also by glazing, so as to be imperishable and lasting through future ages; and the best proof thereof is, that it has never required repair, with the exception of its having been struck with lightning about forty-two years since, and that it still retains all the freshness of a recently erected building. An iron rod, of considerable thickness, towers above the whole building, encircled by rings of gold, from beneath which there are 152 chains hanging grace-

fully down; 140 lamps, requiring no less than sixty-four catty (about nine gallons) of oil for a single night's consumption, are fixed in the niches, shedding their lustre around equally upon the virtuous and the wicked, and removing darkness from amidst mankind. Gold, silver, and pearls adorn the structure, and render it an object of the highest admiration."

Such is a Chinese account of this famous structure, which for ages has been the ambition of foreigners to examine, but the permission for their doing so has been universally denied. The only Europeans who had ever seen it, had done so from a very long distance off, a close view being denied to Mr. Ellis, on his visit to Nankin, a fear of the violence of the people being given to him as an excuse by the mandarins.

Our curiosity having, by degrees, somewhat abated, one of our party proposed the uncorking of sundry bottles of champagne, to which proposition there was not found a single dissentient voice; moreover, we had the satisfaction to know, that we were the first European officers who had had the honour of drinking H. B. M.'s health, and

success to her arms, upon the summit of this ancient and far-famed structure, one which, until the present time, had been sealed and excluded from the gaze of every stranger, and entry to which had even been denied to the embassies which had previously visited this part of China, either on their way towards, or returning from, the seat of imperial authority in the north.

I am free to confess I was amongst those who, adopting a custom, which we here found —not altogether European — added their names to the many Chinese autographs which were scribbled on the walls. I was delighted to see that this custom was not alone confined to the English or Americans. Having again descended, we entered a superb temple, which is joined to the pagoda, on its west side, by a covered way; this was one of the largest, as well as handsomest, I had yet seen, and appeared crowded with devotees at all its principal altars. We were curious enough to pay some attention to their form of worship, at which they seemed rather pleased, doubtless fancying we might take a hint, which would be of inestimable benefit to us: kneeling down in

front of the altar, the suppliant to that particular god in whose honour it had been erected, and whose figure was represented immediately behind it, commenced by bowing repeatedly his head, each time touching the ground, sighing, and reciting, in a low tone of voice, certain words. An attendant priest then placed in his hands two pieces of bamboo, the two being about the size and shape of a potato, divided longitudinally; again bowing, he threw these upon the stone-pavement before him, the priest, and the by-standers as well as himself, intently observing how they should fall; this he repeated many times. At each cast there was a slight exclamation from every one around him—sometimes in a tone of pleasure, sometimes in that of disappointment, according to the way in which the pieces of wood rested. This game, a species of hazard, himself *versus* the god—a fine fat, corpulent gentleman—he continued, with varied success, for a considerable time; at length, making a lucky hit, he suddenly jumped up, apparently well pleased with his throw, and retiring, gave place to the next expectant for equal good fortune.

The head-priest, a venerable and amiable old man, then came to pay his respects to us. The crowd, more anxiously than ever, thronged each door and window, observing narrowly every motion and look. We invited him to take a share of our repast, which had just been placed upon the table; the wines seemed to please him very much—more especially the champagne; but when we presented him with the empty glass bottles, to which he took an especial fancy, his joy knew no bounds, neither himself nor any Chinese present probably having seen such things before. This struck us as very singular, shewing that the intercourse between the ancient capital and the provincial city, Canton, where alone we had been allowed to trade, was not near so considerable as we had been led to imagine, or else this article, of such common use in Europe, must have long since found its way to Nankin.

A much larger crowd again surrounded us on our return home, the report having flown to every portion of the city, that a party of Fanquis* were within the tower.

* Fanqui—*id est*, foreign devil, or barbarian.

The whole, however, still conducted themselves in the same orderly and respectful way they did on our arrival; the young men and boys standing erect and saluting us, precisely in the manner that our own soldiers are instructed to salute their officers, by bringing the hand gracefully, at a right angle, to the forehead—the old men, by shutting both hands, and squeezing them together, at the same time nodding their heads, and saying "Chin-chin." In this they shew more marked courtesy in the north than in the south of China; this, however, must be traced entirely to our own faults, having for so long a time allowed ourselves to be *snubbed* and *ill-treated* by their authorities. From every class of people near Nankin we invariably received the greatest civility; the country peasants, whenever they met us, pronouncing the word "bah," which, although by no means an expression commonly used by one friend or acquaintance chancing to meet another in our own country, doubtless was intended by them as a salutation and compliment. After a very fatiguing day, we reached our quarters about nine at night; the heat of the sun,

added to the exciting scenes we had gone through, having rendered most of us extremely tired and weary, and I suspect that most of us slept far too sound either to dream of porcelain, pagodas, or anything else that night. Since my return to Europe I have often heard people surprised at my mentioning the future difficulties, or rather impossibilities, to those who visit China, of seeing this remarkable object—forgetting altogether, that by the nature of the treaty we are as much shut out now from all but the five ports in China, as we formerly were to all except Canton.

As the prospect of an amicable arrangement with the imperial court became daily more certain, parties, both by way of the canal and also by land, were constantly visiting the tower, and some complaints, which I am bound to say were speedily attended to, reached the ears of H.M.'s plenipotentiary, regarding certain damages which this ancient monument had sustained at the hands of some of its recent visitors. The English unhappily possess the barbarous propensity of mutilating each object they may visit, for the purpose of transferring a

portion, however small, as a specimen or memento, in an ocular and tangible form, before the eyes of their fellow-countrymen at home, in order to render themselves envied by those who have not had the same good fortune to visit these places with themselves. They entirely forget, that should their example be imitated by each one of a multitude that may afterwards follow their footsteps, gradually the very monuments of art or antiquity, which they have frequently undergone much labour to visit, would be transferred in detached fragments, and scattered over the whole face of the globe.

CHAPTER XII.

The owner of our house—Fish and fowls—The transport Defiance—Fever and ague—Paddy grounds—Samshu—The treaty—Elipoo, the commissioner—Chinese national ensign—Despatch from Pekin—Third visit to the Porcelain Tower—Walls of Nankin—Bridges—Porcelain Pagoda—A story of a barber—Anxiety for peace—Indemnity—China—Ho-quen—Kia King—Articles of impeachment—Immense treasures—Remark upon his wealth—Sale of government patronage.

THE continued heat of the weather, of which I have so constantly made mention, prevented us from enjoying ourselves half so much as we should have done in the beautiful country in which we now were stationed, rendering it extremely dangerous to stir out between the hours of 9 A. M. and 4 P. M. in our morning and evening rides.

We could daily perceive that the miserable, affrighted inhabitants gradually assumed more confidence, returning to such of their homes as were not inhabited by us, and, by degrees, were induced to bring in provisions of various descriptions for sale; and a bazaar which we had formed was tolerably supplied. The owner of the house which we occupied, a wealthy silk merchant, occasionally paid us a visit; we invariably received him with kindness, in respect for his misfortunes, assuring him we would pay due attention to his wishes, which were confined to the simple request, that, when we had finished with the use of his house and furniture, we would not set fire to it—an idea having entered his head that it was our constant habit and custom to do so under like circumstances.

Amongst other eccentricities of nature which we had an opportunity of observing, I must here mention the golden fish which chanced to be left in the house we inhabited. Strictly in conformity with the usages of the country, these animals carried, by way of a tail, a huge fan, which stirring the water in a much greater degree than the small fin

usually worn by our fishes of the same class, no doubt gave it a refreshing coolness,—at this hot season, by no means an unpleasant thing for either flesh, fish, or fowl.

Many of the fowls, moreover, which we purchased, had bones of a colour nearly resembling ebony, and which a stranger to this singular freak of nature would instantly condemn as being unfit to eat; but so entirely the contrary did this prove, that, in a short time, the feathered bipeds with black bones became more prized than all others, their flesh being declared both whiter and more tender than those of their ivory-boned companions.

About the latter end of this month (August) we experienced a tremendous storm of thunder, lightning, and rain, which, although it produced a very desirable effect, as far as cooling the air and rendering the temperature of the weather far more agreeable, yet the shipping did not escape its fury; although from its violence it seemed extraordinary that, with but one or two exceptions, they received no material injury. The Defiance, which ship conveyed the artillery horses from Madras, and had an immense quantity of powder on board, was the

only one which I now remember to have suffered severely; while lying at anchor at Quan-sing-moon, her mainmast, was shivered from top to bottom, without fortunately her receiving any other serious injury.

This storm appeared to be the signal for the breaking up of the southerly monsoon; for almost immediately after, the wind changed steadily to the northward, from which quarter it scarcely shifted for a single day for the following nine months. The enormous quantity of rain, however, which fell, not only about Nankin, but also higher up towards the source of this stupendous stream; moreover, the neglect which had been latterly shewn to its banks, by reason of the distracted state of the country consequent upon the war; caused a considerable inundation of the whole of the low country, and added greatly to the discomfort and difficulty of the re-embarkation of the troops, which very shortly after took place.

Some time prior to this, fever and ague, those insidious enemies, so sure to inhabit all low and marshy countries, gained a considerable ascendancy among the troops, both European and native, the seamen and

marines seeming to suffer in a very small degree less than the land forces. Those buildings which we had appropriated for hospital purposes were crammed with patients. The run upon the medicine, such as quinine and bark, so very efficacious in these diseases, was immense; and had not everything been supplied from home with so liberal and bountiful a hand—and upon such a scale as, I am proud to say, no other nation could ever conceive—death, which made sad havock in our ranks, would have thinned them still more. One of the principal causes, in my opinion, which first engendered these diseases, which, in a greater or less degree, so few could boast of having escaped, may be traced, as I have before said, to a neglect of the paddy-grounds which surrounded our position. The inhabitants in the neighbourhood having generally, through fear and timidity, deserted their lands, these began to dry up, and lacking the usual moisture with which they ought to be plentifully supplied, a putrid atmosphere was engendered from the fierce rays of the sun striking upon the rotting and decaying vegetable matter. Sam-shu,

that terrible scourge to all those who resorted to it, and which I have generally found that those troubled with any sickness were the most desirous of obtaining, for the very reason why they should more resolutely abstain from the use of any spirit whatever — that horrid compound was fortunately not very plentiful; and to this circumstance, probably, more than any other, we may perhaps attribute the comparatively few deaths which at that time occurred. The instances of coup-de-soleil were not so frequent as at Ching-kiang-foo, every one growing more cautious in regard to exposing themselves to the sun. When attacked with this, some died in a few hours while others recovered as speedily, but were invariably left in a terribly weak state.

At length, after some weeks' negotiations on both sides, a treaty, mutually agreed upon, was definitively arranged to be signed on board H. M. S. Cornwallis. We must not be surprised at this apparent tardiness, when we consider the nature of those with whom we were negotiating. Suspicion and jealousy being prominent features in their own characters, they natu-

rally fancied they had to contend with the like vices in us, and in addition to their duplicity they possessed a degree of timidity of word and action which are unknown to the delegates of free and enlightened powers; for, having frequently seen those men who have been real benefactors to their country, rewarded through the folly of the Emperor with ignominy and disgrace, it was not to be much wondered at, that they should be cautious how they acted at this critical stage of the proceedings, both as novel as they were humiliating to his imperial majesty and the Tartar dynasty. The 29th of August having been fixed as the day upon which the treaty should be signed, a large concourse both of naval and military officers repaired on board, waiting the arrival of Elipoo and his colleagues, Keying and Newkeen, who soon made their appearance, in company with other mandarins, with various coloured buttons. They came alongside in a curiously-decorated barge, and the aged commissioner was carried from it into the admiral's cabin. He was very unwell; which, added to his years, seventy-two, and the excited state of

his mind at this awful juncture, rendered him an object of commiseration to all.

He had applied to one of our physicians for European remedies; but being, at the same time, unwilling to allow the medical officer to enter the city, he sent one of his own attendants to receive them. Taking a peculiar fancy to some cherry-brandy, this messenger, prior to his return, got very much overcome, and unfortunately mistaking the directions, he desired the poor old man to take the whole box of pills, containing many doses, at once. No wonder, therefore, he was so weak and ailing.

Each article of this treaty was severally read and explained to them, and one by one agreed to. The one which they seemed the most averse to, was that of including Fou-chow-foo amongst the five ports. Finding, however, that point on our part would not be given up, they acceded to it. The second article of the treaty, which may be said to embrace all the others, I will here quote:—

"His Majesty, the Emperor of China, agrees that British subjects, with their families and establishments, shall be allowed

to reside, for the purpose of carrying on their mercantile pursuits, without molestation or restraint, at the cities and towns of Canton, Amoy, Fou-chow-foo, Ningpo, and Shanghae, and her Majesty, the Queen of Great Britain, &c., will appoint superintendents, or consular officers, to reside at each of the above-named cities or towns, to be the medium of communication between the Chinese authorities and the said merchants, and to see that the just duties and other dues of the Chinese government, as hereinafter provided for, are duly discharged by her Britannic Majesty's subjects."

The names of the commissioners, together with that of our plenipotentiary, having been signed upon each page, a salute of twenty-one guns was fired upon the occasion, and the imperial yellow flag hoisted at the mast head; the first time that ensign had been admitted amongst the national banners recognised throughout the civilized portion of the world.

A sumptuous entertainment was provided upon the occasion, to which the Chinese did ample justice. The step they had taken on behalf of the emperor was now past

recovery, and they determined to put the best face they could upon the matter, however ugly the consequences that might ensue, appeared to them. Shortly after, they took their leave, stating that no pains should be lost in causing this despatch to fly to Pekin, to receive the emperor's signature and approval, and that it would be returned as speedily, in order that it might be conveyed with the utmost celerity to the cabinet of of her most gracious majesty.

Officers were despatched, on the part of the military and naval commanders-in-chief, with this intelligence to England; and to convey this welcome news to the governor-general in India, who was at that time proceeding towards the frontiers of Affghanistan, to convert the disastrous catastrophes which our arms had met with in that quarter, into a victorious jubilee at the Field of the Cloth of Gold, at Ferosepore.

As speedily as a dispatch could be conveyed, in a country where steam is only known as proceeding from their own tea-kettles and cooking apparatus—which latter, by the way, we found constantly in use among them—an answer of the most satisfactory

kind arrived from Pekin, calling our most beloved Sovereign his sister, equal to himself in every way, and stating that not a moment should be lost in attending to the wishes of the *honourable strangers*, that each of their demands would be duly attended to. What now gave us a solid proof of the emperor being in earnest, was, that boats were arriving, laden with sycee, their contents to be divided amongst those ships-of-war which were first to return homewards. H. B. M. Plenipotentiary now felt sure that arrangements the most satisfactory that we could have expected, would assuredly be carried into execution; and he accordingly gave notice to the joint commanders of the expedition that they were at liberty to retire with their forces, at their convenience, once more down the river. Orders were, therefore, promulgated to us to retrace our steps from under the walls of this famous capital, and on the 8th of September we once more embarked on board H. M. S. Belle-Isle.

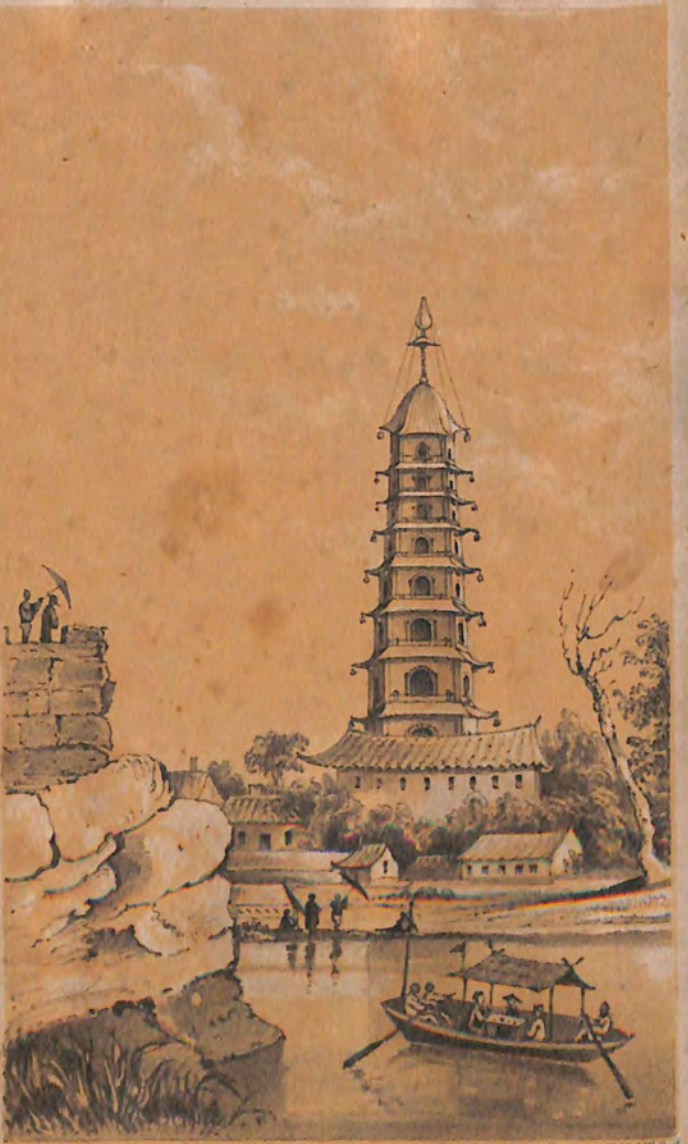
We fortunately did not receive our final orders for sailing for some days, one of which I devoted to another visit to the porcelain tower. This time we went the whole way

by water, by that part of the canal which runs along the western face of the city; which canal, indeed, surrounds all, but one-sixth of the whole town. The distance from Ye-tse-shan, or Lion's Mount, to the bridge, immediately below the tower, I calculated roughly at about six miles; from there to the south-east angle, about eight; from which to the Lion's Mount, again, about seven; thus making the entire circuit of these *inner* walls about twenty-one miles. The boats which we hired from the Chinese were, for river work, both safe and commodious, being shaped much after the same fashion as our Thames' punts, though considerably larger, and always roofed. They are generally divided into three separate compartments; the head and stern for the oar and helmsmen; the centre neatly fitted up with stools, table, &c., for the passengers. Many a cozy party of Chinese did we meet leisurely floating down the stream, sipping tea, their constant companion, gradually recovering from the fright they had endured during the past month.

The canal, soon after leaving the Yang-tse-kiang river, forms also the city ditch.

We thus had an opportunity of passing close under the walls, nearly the whole way; they appeared to have received many recent repairs, and within the last few months have been considerably strengthened. Their height varied so much in different places, that it would be impossible to give any true statement concerning it; but at the south-western angle, where they seemed the most lofty, I think they must have greatly exceeded forty feet. The Chinese never could divest themselves of the idea that because we were the first maritime nation in the world, we, as a matter of course, must attack each fortress by water. They thus invariably strengthened the face where there was a canal, ditch, or river, to the utter neglect of the remainder; and although we had made such formidable demonstration on the eastern face of the city, where no ditch exists, and the wall by far weaker and in worse repair than the other three, they used no further precaution than shutting the gates against our entry, and heaping up sand and gravel at the Tai-ping-moon.

We observed many gateways on this face



On Stone by B Clayton. Drawn by Captain Haytorn, H.M. 98th Regt

VIEW OF THE PORCELAIN TOWER AT KAN-KIN-FOO,

FROM THE GRAND CANAL.

Saunders & Otley, Conduit Str.

of the city wall, some of which had lately been built up, the remainder carefully closed against our entry. We passed under three bridges of stone, and it is worthy of remark, that none of these were built with the masonic arch; they possessed no key-stone, but consisted of two or more enormous slabs on either side, the upper ones leaning against each other in the centre; the whole weight of the bridge, together with what might have been upon it, pressing, therefore, directly upon these and the supporting pillars, the weight was by no means equally divided. These, I should imagine, were very ancient, as some I have seen in central China, and about Nankin in particular, contain as beautiful arches, in the true Roman style, as those which form New London Bridge.

At this third visit which I made to the pagoda, its beauty appeared still more conspicuous, and I certainly believe that for peculiarity of design and architecture, as well as for the finish and perfection of its style of workmanship, this building stands unrivalled in the whole globe.

Until we were actually anchored in front

of the north wall of the city, they could not be persuaded that it was possible for us to bring our huge vessels so far up. How could we overcome the difficulties and dangers of this stupendous river?—her shoals and her rocks would devour us. Such were the prognostications—once there, their consternation and fear knew no bounds. In some instances they looked upon us as gods, in some as devils, in all as a very extraordinary race. As an instance of this, I will here relate a most absurd story which was told me by an officer, at Nankin, and which will go far to shew the fear with which we were looked upon by this superstitious race. After my friend had visited the porcelain tower, being somewhat fatigued, he stepped into a barber's shop, and by way of employing his time, he desired the barber to shave his head. This gentleman wore a wig, but which, for the sake of coolness, he had placed in his pocket; this operation, of shaving, so common in China, was speedily and quickly executed — the barber, seeming to be delighted with the honour of shaving one of the illustrious strangers. Previously to his leaving the shop, and while the man's atten-

tion was called in some other direction, my friend replaced his wig upon his head, little thinking of the result of this simple process; no sooner, however, had the barber turned round and observed him, whom he had so lately cleared of every vestige of hair, suddenly covered with a most luxuriant growth, than, taking one steady gaze at him, to make sure he was not deceived, he let fall the razor, cleared his counter at a bound, and running madly through the crowd which was speedily collected, cried out, that he was visited by the devil. No entreaties could induce him to return, until every Fanqui had left the neighbourhood; so palpable a miracle as this, being, in his opinion, quite beyond the powers of all the gods or demons in the Bhuddist calendar.

To those accustomed solely to European politics, and to negotiations entered into between those *soi-disant* highly polished states, the fact of the potentate of one country entering into a reciprocal treaty with another, seems naturally an everyday affair. Here, however, the case was very widely altered, and any one who considers the subject in the same light as myself cannot fail to have an honest pride in

the reflection, that, considerably within the space of three short months, after only a small portion of the stupendous power of our little island had been brought into play, guided as it was abroad, with vigour and discrimination, and backed up at home with a constant supply of men, money, and provisions, this, the proudest monarch in the world, who, up to this time, had considered no mortal either equal, far less superior to himself, should have found himself obliged to admit, that there was one power, at least, considerably stronger than his own; and which, but for its magnanimity towards a fallen foe, could with ease, have occupied as many positions as it desired, and have sown in his territories such seeds of discontent as would inevitably have shaken the very foundation of his empire. It is but fair, however, in justice both to himself and his ministry, to admit that finding that no resource was left but humbling himself to that victorious power, that was revelling in his kingdom, he at once determined to comply in real earnest with our terms.

He now became as anxious to make a firm and lasting peace with us, as he formerly

was to exterminate these quasi-barbarians. All imperial edicts were couched in the most friendly terms, though at the same time scrupulously guarding his own dignity and honour. Strict injunctions were given to his subjects to throw aside all animosity and bad feeling, and to use their strenuous exertions to set everything upon a proper footing, which I am bound to say they here obeyed to the letter. As to the indemnification for the expenses of the war, &c., he either affected, or really did consider, this great amount of dollars an affair of no moment, although it certainly to us appeared a stupendous sum to carry out of any country, however prolific its resources—upwards of five millions sterling in bullion, added to the immense amount his treasury must have lost, consequent upon our invasion, and the expense he must have been put to, in his attempts at repelling us, which doubtless cannot be estimated at less than five millions more, a sum I should be much inclined to think it considerably exceeded.

To raise this amount in our own country would neither be a matter of difficulty nor time, the credit of the state being such, that

almost any conceivable amount would readily be forthcoming when called for; but where banking has no signification, even by which it can be expressed, but where all sums of money, should they not already exist in the coffers of the state, must, if absolutely required, be squeezed from the pockets of the industrious portion of the community, either by fair means or foul—in a country of this sort, the bare collection will naturally cause a considerable degree of anxiety and trouble to the government, and of discontent and soreness on the part of those from whom it may be wrung.

China, although it may be classed amongst those containing the greatest resources of any country in the world, yet, from the nature of its government, where bribery and corruption run through every vein in its body, and affect each class of men, from the prince to the peasant, will naturally be a country where a few favourites will fatten upon their extortions, and these few will possess such riches as are almost incredible, while tens of thousands are in the most abject state of misery. This is sometimes very useful to the emperor, for should any

cause suddenly change his opinion of his favourites, nominal derelictions, however groundless, are worked up into crimes, and the property of the accused confiscated to the state. By this means, immense sums are occasionally collected; these, however, are trivial to what might be obtained in a country of equal resources, by general taxation. As an instance of the extraordinary sum of money which may be squeezed out of one individual alone, I will quote a few words from "Timkowski's Travels in China," which circumstance is also noticed by Sir George Staunton. Speaking of Ho-quen, known to the members of Lord Mc'Cartney's embassy under the title of Duke-Ho, for twenty years the favourite of Kien-long, who reigned from 1735 to 1795, he says, "He rose rapidly, continuing but a short time in inferior posts, but, in the opinion of the public, not much to his honour. At the age of eighteen he gained the favour of Kien-long, by his agreeable manners, his sagacity and quickness in answering difficult questions proposed to him. His power and fortunes soon became boundless, even the near relations of the emperor courted his

protection. The death of Kien-long put an end to the glory, and even to the existence, of Ho-quen, notwithstanding the authority which he enjoyed. Kia-king, the successor of Kien-long, gave vent to his resentment against his father's favourite. Ho-quen was accused of treason, and being found guilty, rigorous inquiries were made into his conduct, and this powerful man perished with his whole family, the imperial exchequer seizing his immense treasures. After sentence had been passed upon Ho-quen, Kia-king published a proclamation, containing an enumeration of his crimes—the four last of which probably contain the real secret or reason of the impeachment:

"Art. 16. Among his treasures of pearls and precious stones, upwards of two hundred strings or bracelets of the former were discovered, many times exceeding in value those in our imperial possession. One among the pearls belonging to Ho-quen was of an enormous size, and exceeded even that which adorns the imperial head-dress. There were likewise found various buttons, distinguishing princely rank, carved out of precious stones, such as his situation by no means

entitled him to wear. Many score of these gems were discovered, besides pieces of the same kind in the rough state, to an incalculable amount, and in an endless variety, unknown even among the imperial treasures.

"Art. 17. Among his countless treasures was found a complete dress of ceremony, the colour yellow, which by the laws is limited exclusively to our imperial use. Ho-quen is no more than our slave; what then did he intend? This important discovery excited, in the highest degree, our distrust and displeasure.

"Art. 18. In his treasure, sums of an immense amount have been discovered. To be prime minister, and vie with merchants in mean love of gain, is one of the greatest crimes.

"Art. 19. The *gold* taken from the walls of the house where it was deposited, amounted to 4800lbs.; the silver to twenty-three millions *lan.*"

According to a statement that was received as authentic at Canton, at the time of the confiscation of his effects, it appeared that, besides lands, houses, and other immoveable property to an amazing amount,

not less than eighty millions of Chinese ounces of silver, or about 23,330,000*l.* sterling value, in bullion and gems, were found in his treasury; upon which Sir G. Staunton gives the following remark:—'This sum, though immense, is not incredible when the vast extent of the empire is considered, over the various departments of which he had certainly, for many years, a very unusual, and, indeed, almost unbounded influence."

As a means of recruiting his treasury, the emperor has lately increased the sale of government honours, to a very considerable extent; buttons and peacock-tails being now one of the most profitable resources of his income: and as these honours, contrary to our customs, are hereditary from son to father, rather than from father to son, they soon drop, otherwise every Chinaman would speedily become a mandarin.

The sale of government patronage being commonly resorted to; the retention for any length of time of a government situation, of whatever class it may be, can only be secured by timely consideration to those in power. This calls to my recollec-

tion a remark of the Chinese to a captain of one of H. M.'s cruisers, who said he was a very poor man: "Now, you say poor man — suppose not rich man — how can shew handsome face—get large ship;" shewing a handsome face being always used for presenting a handsome bribe in the Canton dialect; nor could he be convinced that government patronage was not equally a saleable article in our country as in theirs.

Those officers with whose conduct during the war the emperor had not been well satisfied, were impeached before the board of punishment, and when found guilty—it being rare when they were not—were punished severely, some capitally, their estates and property invariably going to the public treasury. In this impeachment, by special edict from the emperor, the several delinquencies of which they are accused are set forth:

"At present the English barbarians are tranquillized, and all their ships have left the river, and gone to sea. I, the Emperor, because of thinking that the black-haired people were in the midst of mud and ashes, calamities and distress, could not but bend

my will and constrain and force myself to accord with that which Keying and his colleagues had requested, and I promised free trade to the English barbarians, and thus caused my people to rejoice in their occupations and dwell in peace, and prevent the recurrence of the calamities of war; and considering the former affairs, (the defeats of the Chinese and successes of the English,) all that has happened is Newkeen's fault.

"Newkeen is a magnate of the first rank, and has been invested with the important charge of guarding the frontiers; but he has ungratefully nullified my favours in being weak as water in the performance of his duty, and has injured and disgraced the honour and respectability of the nation; if he is not severely punished, how can the laws of the country be illustrated and manifested, and the high officers warned in the proper performance of their usual duties?

"I order that Newkeen be deprived of his official rank, and taken into custody to undergo examinations; and Keying is to send him under an escort to Pekin, and to be delivered over to the criminal board for the punishment of his crimes.

"Ching Yuhtsae (the fooyuen of Keang-soo) was also invested with the defence of a place, (his province,) and I find he remained protecting the provincial capital, Soochow, and did not lead on his troops to battle; his case differs somewhat from that of Newkeen.

"Tih Choopoo (the Tartar general of Nankin) lost the city of Ching-kiang; he also is guilty of the crime of not exerting himself in defending his post. I order that they be delivered over to the said board, and that each of them be severely punished. *Respect this.*"

Severest measures were taken by the emperor against all the functionaries who in any way came into collision with the barbarians, and were baffled or worsted. Naval, military, or civil officers, none were exempt from condign punishment, although some of them were of the highest rank and station in the empire.

Yik-shan and Yik-king were condemned to death, and if we may judge from the fate of Yu-poo-yun, who has been recently decapitated, we should say no doubt can exist that the capital punishment was inflicted upon them also.

The execution of Yu-poo-yun was a lamentable event, seeing that when he was commander-in-chief of Che-keang province, he defended to the best of his ability the positions he had taken up at Chin-hae and Ningpo. From an eye-witness we have learned that he evinced great personal gallantry at our capture of the former town.

It is an affecting incident in the fate of this officer, but not a rare one in Chinese history, that his son petitioned the emperor to die instead of his father. This vicarious atonement, or rather this offering to appease the sanguinary vengeance of the law, has on some occasions been granted, but it was in this instance denied. The emperor declared the crime to be too heavy to permit any mitigation of the sentence, and admonished the son to retrieve the disgrace of his name and family, by striving, and with his kindred too, in repelling the "cunning barbarian slaves," should they again invade the father-land.

It may here be worthy of notice, that the Emperor of China never signs his edicts, as is the custom with European potentates, either with his name, or as Asiatic rulers,

with some device which they adopt on coming to the throne; on the contrary, on the back of the paper he writes a few words in the Tartar character, such as "Respect this!" for which purpose he invariably uses red ink, which is prohibited to all his subjects upon the severest penalties which this powerful potentate can inflict. Thus the very sight of the vermilion pencil will make the stoutest heart of the proudest mandarin tremble in his breast, being convinced that it can be the autograph of him alone.

Herewith I insert a specimen of a portion of an edict:

"To those who resist my commands there shall be no escape from strangulation! Persist in the vice, and die! renounce it, and live! Tremble, then, at the penalty, and flee the crime! Do not say you have not had timely warning. Let all tremblingly obey. These are the commands.

"Haste, haste!—a special edict!"

These last words were written in vermilion.

CHAPTER XIII.

Fever and ague—Vegetable diet—The brig Anne—The Belle-Isle returns—Sickness in the ship—The native followers — Funeral rites — Sail from Nankin—Run a-ground—The Golden Island—Again afloat — Men drowned—Toll upon the junks—Ching-kiang-foo—Well-judged policy—Influence of the tides—H. C. S. Memnon — H. M. S. Vindictive — Woosung river — Shops at Shang-hai — Tou-tai of Shang-hai — Leave the Yang-tse-kiang—Muddy water—Gutzlaff Island —Kintang or Silver Island—Chusan—Inner harbour—Chinese apothecary—Chinese drugs—Pastry-cooks—Pigs—Puppy-dogs.

FEVER and ague were now at their height. The lassitude and debility which remained after an attack could not fail to call forth the pity of all who were sufficiently fortunate themselves to escape. Many there were so exhausted by what they underwent,

that, losing heart, they sank, from sheer languor, to rise no more. This species of sickness particularly affected the Europeans of both services, more especially those lately arrived from England. The two principal diseases—few, either of men or officers, escaping both—were diarrhœa, engendering dysentery, and a low description of fever, accompanied by ague, the causes of which were various. Dysentery, I am inclined to think, in many instances, proceeded from the effect of the water of the Yang-tse-kiang, which had apparently a strong tendency to produce that complaint; and, secondly, as I have before mentioned, sudden and severe exertion under a scorching sun after long confinement, oftentimes in ships far too much crowded; and also to the intemperate indulgence in vegetables, too frequently partaken of in a raw state; and of pork, which, of all meats in hot weather, is perhaps the most injurious. I have known instances of men having eaten as much as six and eight pounds of pork during the day, with raw vegetables, and water-melons *ad libitum*. Sometimes this was the only fresh meat procurable, and no

persuasion could prevent them from indulging thus freely in it. The Tartar soldiery having cleared off all the poultry within the neighbourhood of their camps, and the people, too long accustomed to submit patiently to any orders emanating from the mandarins, being under strict injunctions to have no dealings with us, often would dispose of nothing except by force, or as a means of spying into our resources, an account of which they had been specially ordered to obtain. The love of the "pernicious poison" sometimes drove away all their fears and scruples; and what could not be obtained with dollars was frequently easily procurable with opium.

A small brig, called the Anne, followed closely upon the heels of the fleet the whole way up the river. Shortly after we had cast anchor at Nankin, it became known that, although no other vessel could obtain a single head of poultry, the Anne had a large stock of hens, ducks, &c., constantly for sale, and was therefore the eager resort of all parties in both services; and being more willing on board to accept plunder in

lieu of these grateful supplies than money itself, a very considerable traffic did she constantly carry on, into the secrets of which I took some pains eventually to inquire. It appeared she had, as part of her cargo, a small quantity of opium. This she readily bartered with the Chinese for the aforesaid poultry, which again she exchanged with our troops for cloaks and dresses of all description, frequently giving but a few fowls for a valuable fur cloak. These she again retailed to the Chinamen for fowls, or Sycee, according to the demands of the market, retailing a second time this stock for plunder to the fleet and army. In this way, she, for the space of many weeks, contrived to drive a most lucrative trade; and from the prices which the Chinese paid, either in silver or stock for the aforesaid opium or loot, I think I am within the mark when I state she must have made at least *one thousand per cent.* upon this speculation. So far from blaming in any way the parties concerned, who, I believe, were American, I give them the greatest credit in going there at all; for had any untoward event

happened to their vessel, such as sticking upon a bank, which but few of the ships escaped doing at least once, she very possibly might have fallen into the hands of the Chinese, or been destroyed by the force of the current, we having quite enough to do without assisting strangers, and, indeed, being obliged to set fire to one or more of our transports which, when they had grounded, could not be got off.

A copy of the treaty had now arrived from Pekin, said to have been fully agreed upon by the Emperor, with a highly satisfactory letter from the council, speaking of the honourable strangers in the most flattering terms, and further stating that the treaty itself was only delayed for some requisite forms it had to undergo at the imperial court, but that it would very shortly follow.

The sickness was now so great on board H. M. S. Belle-Isle, amongst both soldiers and seamen, that it was thought prudent to send her down the river, hoping that sea air might have its usual beneficial effects in renovating and giving fresh life to the sinking energies of her inmates. The

troops on board this ship which less than two months previously had numbered about 650 men, and, with trifling exceptions, all in good health, were now reduced in number to 500, and could scarce muster 120 men of these fit for service, every one of the remainder suffering under disease.

The entire lower deck was converted into one hospital, filled with the sick and dying. Out of the ship's company, which had consisted of 250 seamen, but seventy or eighty were found fit to assist in navigating her. The highest degree of praise is due to her captain, who, although extremely ill himself, brought this huge vessel, by unremitting exertion, in the most masterly style through the intricacies of this unknown river. A long and fearful list of men, who but a few short weeks since were redolent of health, now met with a watery tomb in the far-distant Yang-tse-kiang. Scarcely a single day for some weeks elapsed, that one, two, three, or even four, were not stretched upon a grating on the poop. The moans and groans which proceeded from the lower deck, but a few feet

from us, and only divided by a plank, were truly painful to hear; and from the constant scene of death which surrounded them, despair had seized upon one and all, each expecting it would be his turn next to be cast into the river. It was considered far the most preferable plan, even if we had had leisure or opportunity to have acted otherwise, to bury the dead in the same way as if we had been on the ocean; for the numberless instances, upon the second time of our taking Chusan, which were then discovered of the profanation by the Chinese, during our temporary absence, of the graves of those poor fellows who had died in the time of its former occupation, caused every one to approve of this mode of burial, seldom resorted to, even among sailors, unless in the open sea. The native followers were but a shade less sickly than the Europeans, and great numbers of them shared the same fate. It was curious to observe their extreme grief upon one of their number being cast into a watery grave. This, however, we soon learned, did not proceed half so much from the loss of their companion as

from the way in which his body was disposed of, they being extremely anxious to follow the customs of their religion, and consume their bodies by fire, frequently requesting the use of the galley on the main deck for this purpose—which, much to their mortification, was refused.

H. M. S. F. Vixen was, during our descent down the river, lashed alongside, and it was even proposed by some of these poor superstitious fellows to send a petition to her captain, stating their extreme anxiety to be allowed to cast the bodies of their companions into the furnaces of the engine; hearing that he was short of fuel, they had no doubt he would gladly avail himself of such an opportunity of keeping the steam up without expending more of his stock than was requisite. Much to the disappointment of poor blacky, this proposition was not received by the quiet, gentlemanly Captain B——; the idea alone, he being very unwell at the time, would have caused to his sensitive frame a severe relapse.

On Thursday, the 15th of September, we commenced our retrograde movement,

H. M. S. F. Vixen being ordered to take us in tow, and to conduct us outside the mouth of the river. Unfortunately, she was not quite ready at the time of our departure, and we were under weigh much sooner than we expected—our anchor breaking short off at the fluke immediately that a strain came upon it.

The wind being very scant, we drifted almost entirely at the will of the current. Twice on the first day we got on shore; the second time apparently so securely lodged, that it seemed certain we should be obliged to lighten the ship. This was a short distance below the town of I-chin-heen, and not far from the place where such a vast number of junks had been destroyed two evenings prior to the capture of Chin-kiang-foo. We fortunately escaped so troublesome an expedient, and, on the morning of the second day, were once more afloat. In swinging off the bank, we came broadside on to the stern of a transport, called La Belle Alliance, and injured her so severely that it was one month ere she had completed her repairs, or was able to leave the river.

On the morning of the 16th, while we were aground, the H. C. S. F. Auckland, passed us, with Colonel Malcolm on board, conveying the treaty, which had arrived from Pekin the evening previously, to England. Many a poor fellow was there who would have given all he possessed in the world to have accompanied the colonel to that dear country he was never doomed to see again; and many a sigh was heard upon the reflection of how long, if ever, it would be, ere they saw those smiling faces, or heard those familiar voices, which they well trusted would greet them on their return home.

On reaching the Golden Island, we got into one of those whirlpools which render even steamers of considerable burden unmanageable. These rapids go by the name of Chow-chow water. Into such a curious predicament did we get, that although our jib-boom was over a rock, on which our dolphin striker was continually pounding, yet the vessel herself was always in deep water and afloat; but such was the power of the eddy in which we lay, that although

a strong breeze was blowing at the time, and every stitch of canvas that could be set was well aback, she did not move from the spot in which she lay spell-bound, as though it were the work of enchantment. Here she remained many hours, until suddenly a rise in the water drove her away, and in a few minutes she was again lying against the banks of the river, some few miles further down. From this she took a second start in the middle of the night, and was finally brought up by the best bower anchor, opposite to the position occupied by General Schœdde, at Chin-kiang-foo. The rapidity of these eddies and currents rendered the navigation of the river extremely dangerous, even for boats, more particularly in going alongside the ships, where frequent accidents occurred.

No less than forty-five men attached to the expedition were drowned in this river, from the time of our capture of Chin-kiang to the retirement of the fleet and army below this town, consequent upon the treaty of Nankin.

This detention gave me an opportunity of

paying the Golden Island a second visit, and I was more charmed than ever with the extreme beauty of this sacred spot. In the days of the old Emperor, Kien-Loong, no doubt the buildings were in a better state of preservation than at present, but now everything is going to decay; the south and central China is sacrificed to the exigencies of the north, and the lavish expenditure of the imperial court must be supported by the industry and frugality of the portions of the empire from which almost their entire resources spring.

By ancient custom, I was informed that a toll was levied upon all junks, according to their size or cargo, proceeding up the river, which was appropriated to the benefit of the Golden Island, to keep the temples in repair, and maintain the priests. A tax was even levied upon them up to the time of our arrival; but the greatest portion of the proceeds arising therefrom have, for a long series of years, found their way into the imperial treasury, in the place of being appropriated to the uses for which they were originally intended.

I was glad to hear that the wretched inhabitants of Chin-kiang-foo were beginning to regain some confidence, and that a few cook-shops, and others for the sale of eatables, had already been opened in different parts of the town.

A Tartar garrison received our permission to occupy the city; it must, however, have taken a considerable time ere all things could again be restored to their former state; every portion of society having received such a shock as to disorganize its whole fabric; and not only must this have been felt in the immediate neighbourhood, but thousands and tens of thousands of people who gained the means of subsistence by tracking the boats on the canal, must, by reason of its being so long closed, have felt severe distress, although themselves removed many hundred miles from the seat of war itself; which circumstance alone will shew how well judged was the policy of cutting off this communication, and how effectually it distressed the empire, from one end to the other, effecting the Emperor in his palace, at Pekin, almost as keenly as if

he had been in the province, Keang-tse itself.

On the morning of the 18th the Vixen was fairly lashed alongside, and brought us in safety through the eddies of Santo-shan. For some days we cautiously dropped down the river, recognising the headlands and villages which we had had a hasty look at on our way up. Our descent was rendered tedious from the necessity we were under of constantly coming to an anchor, and sending boats ahead to sound, to ascertain, by the depth, if we had deviated from the proper channel; this was very requisite for us to do, drawing, as we did, twenty-three feet of water. At one time, we dropped anchor, and lay against the bank, so that, standing with the man ropes in our hands, we could pluck the heads off the rice, the ship being at the time in four-and-a-half fathoms. This probably is such a thing as few have done in a seventy-four. On the 20th, we again came within the influence of the tides. We crossed, with great success, the wide expanses of water between the village of Kiang-zeen-heen and Fooshan, or the White

House, where, on our ascent, we had seen the eclipse. A few hours after passing this last-named town, we came to an anchor off Roundtree Point: here we were greeted by the sight of a large steamer, which proved to be H.C.S. Memnon, having a mail on board. She running aground about two miles distant, enabled us to send a boat for our letters; our disappointment was very great upon ascertaining that they were all sealed up in boxes and directed to head quarters; we were, therefore, obliged to await their return from Nankin, and did not receive them until nearly a month after, at Chusan.

Hawey Point next hove in sight, and we accomplished the distance from thence to Woosung in two days, being fortunately only twice aground in these thirty miles. The appearance of the batteries was greatly changed since we left them, the officer in command having most effectually executed his orders of rasing the fortifications with the ground. The village itself, a miserable spot, was again inhabited; but the people in the neighbourhood had not as yet regained suf-

ficient confidence as to bring in any quantity of supplies for the shipping.

We found in our old anchorage H. M. S. North Star and Wanderer, beside the Dido, which latter vessel had accompanied us nearly the whole way from Chin-kiang-foo.

On the following day, we accepted the invitation of the captain of the Wanderer, to accompany him in his pinnace to the town of Shang-hai; he had lately joined the expedition, having come from home in H.M.S. Vindictive, whose extraordinary fast passage I cannot omit to mention. He arrived at Java Head, at the entrance of the Straits of Sunda, having called at Madeira, and watered at St. Jago, in the Cape Verd Islands, in seventy days. She was five days becalmed in Sunda Straits, but nevertheless succeeded in completing her passage to Hong-Kong on the ninetieth day—a passage which I understand has never been surpassed; after rounding the Cape of Good Hope, on two different occasions, she ran two hundred and ninety-six miles in twenty-four hours; the odd four miles, to have made it three hundred, could not be got out of her, though many

a studding sail-boom was carried away, and every exertion was put in practice to do so.

The pinnace made a fine run up the Woosung river, performing the distance, about twenty miles, in three hours. Upon our nearing the city of Shang-hai, everything appeared to wear a cheerful appearance, which contrasted very greatly with what we had seen upon our former visit. The river was now crowded with boats, large tiers of junks were moored in ranks, most of which had lately arrived from the South, and were completing their cargoes of tea and silk, and making preparations for their return, the monsoon blowing now strong from the north.

The inhabitants seemed to be delighted to see us, a vast crowd continually surrounding whatever shops we chose to enter; and we were invariably treated with the utmost civility and attention. The streets, which we had now a better opportunity of seeing, were very narrow, by no means a disadvantage in this climate; the shops gaily decked out with all sorts of things imaginable, the separate class of wares by no means confined to particular streets, or parts of the city,

the common custom in the East, but each pleasing his fancy in regard to the merchandise he should deal in, after the same fashion as is practised in Europe generally. We also visited the tea-gardens, and found them restored to order and neatness, the shutters, which had been used for our camp-fires, already replaced.

Plenty of inhabitants were sipping their tea, or smoking their pipes, as gaily as if nothing had occurred to disturb the serenity of their lives. The Tou-tee sent his compliments to us, stating that if we would remain he would be happy to shew us every attention within his power; from what we learned, he seemed a clever, sensible man. His remark upon the war was very judicious: he said, that no doubt much misery and destruction of property had accrued, consequent upon our visit to the north, but that eventually an immensity of good would result from it, as, had we not convinced the emperor we could grasp the key of his kingdom whenever we chose to lay our hands upon it, never would he have bent one iota to our wishes, and the trade with China

would have continued rigidly restricted to the port of Canton; whereas, by the present treaty which had been concluded, a gigantic spring of commercial prosperity was now open to all parts of the Chinese empire. Leaving Shang-hai, with a strong ebb tide, we were again on board the Belle-Isle by ten that evening.

Our merry party was that day shared by a convivial captain of the R.N., who contrived, on his return to his ship, through the strength of the tide, or, as some said, through that of our port-wine, to upset his boat and boat's crew into the river; hanging on by the broad flaps of his coat, they contrived to save themselves, being pulled on board another vessel, where he was soon put in a warm bed by the excellent fellow who commanded her.

On the 27th of September, we weighed anchor for the last time within the noble Yang-tse-kiang, one of the transports being sent with us, to go ahead and report soundings. We arrived upon the shallowest part of the bar, about one o'clock, and at five, P.M., fancied we were quite clear of touching,

when suddenly we grounded upon a bank of sand and mud; the crew laboured incessantly the whole night, in their endeavours to get her off, but all without effect; early in the morning, every stitch of canvas being set, gradually she commenced working her own way, and foot by foot eventually glided into deep water. The water, although at such a distance as to be out of sight of the main land, was quite devoid of any taste of salt; this alone would shew what an immense quantity of fresh water was constantly pouring into this portion of the Yellow Sea, from the two stupendous rivers, the Wang-ho and Yang-tse-kiang, the mouths of both of which are situated within one hundred miles of each other. The waters are highly surcharged with mud, the former containing one-seventieth part, and the latter one-ninety-sixth, of earth. This renders them both unpleasant and unwholesome to drink, and to it may possibly be attributed a portion of the sickness we sustained. The Chinese have adopted a very simple remedy for this evil, one by far simpler and equally efficacious with our filter, but which, unfor-

tunately, was not discovered until we were leaving the river, but which it will behove any one who may chance to visit muddy streams to remember: into about a quart of water they throw a small pinch of alum; leaving it to stand a few minutes, it becomes as clear as crystal, a considerable sediment being found at the bottom. Not even the poorest fisherman, but is always provided with a small portion for this necessary purpose.

We anchored this evening, near to a small island which bears the name of Mr. Gutzlaff, a praiseworthy man, who has devoted his entire life in his endeavours to convert the Chinese and Siamese to Christianity, in which I understand he has been most successful.

On the 29th September, Michaelmas-day, we anchored once more at St. Helen's, a name lately given to the Chusan outer anchorage, entering within the group by a romantic passage, between the islands of Blackwall and Kintang, or Silver Island; the latter, though less cultivated than the surrounding ones, is strikingly picturesque,

and is said formerly to have been devoted as a place of banishment for those mandarins who had fallen under the temporary displeasure of their paternal emperor. It is also said to contain silver mines, which have not been allowed, as yet, to be opened. Should this be really true, their hidden treasure will, I fancy, soon be brought to light, to assist, in some degree, in paying the expenses of the late campaigns.

We were looked upon as great lions, by our companions in arms at Chusan, being the first arrival from the late seat of war. We learned that a few cases of kidnapping had occurred since our departure, for which crime some who were detected had suffered the extreme penalty of the law. The people seemed very contented and happy under our rule; numberless shops were open, and such a scene of bustle and activity I have seldom seen surpassed in any country town at home. The supplies appeared quite inexhaustible, for whatever number of ships subsequently came into harbour, the market always was most abundantly stocked, and at prices very

considerably lower than we afterwards had to pay in the south.

A certain degree of sickness had visited the troops stationed there, but more sparingly than it had done to those who had been further removed from the sea breezes. The inner harbour was very full of shipping, which were principally filled with sea provisions and clothing for the fleet and army —a judicious step, which had been latterly adopted since the time her Majesty's present advisers came into power, to prevent a second repetition of the dreadful privations under which our forces laboured, and the consequent sickness and mortality during the first occupation of Chusan, when the war was conducted upon a smaller scale.

We had now more constant opportunities of looking into the manners and customs of this singular people than we formerly had, owing to the bustle and disorder consequent upon the forcible occupation of their towns and villages. They certainly appeared to me a most civil and industrious race, highly cultivated, after their own peculiar style, both in the arts and sciences. The ink

drawings which were exposed for sale, were many of them replete with merit. Their china, both in design as well in the porcelain itself, as the painting, was very beautiful; and the shops, both for neatness and cleanliness, would do honour to London tradesmen; the apothecaries', in particular, exactly resembled our own. I was often much amused in watching a steady old gentleman preparing drugs from the recipes which were brought into his shop, and which had been prescribed to the patient (precisely after our own custom) by the physician who had visited him. I could not help observing, that a number of the prescriptions resembled each other in every particular; they seemed to consist of an endless variety of roots and herbs, which were all cast into an iron mortar, made in the shape of a boat: in this was placed a circular iron wheel, with a piece of hard wood run transversely through it, by way of axle: seating himself upon a low bench, a young man worked the wheel backwards and forwards with his feet, and with a dexterity only to be acquired by practice, soon reduced the various ingre-

dients into a pulverized state, in which form they were carefully wrapped up in paper, labelled, and sent to their destination; written instructions for the manner of using them being generally sent with them. From what I could learn, they consisted of such various and opposite characters, that the medico was convinced, one, if not more, would take effect in the manner he desired, and thus the restoration of the patient would be completed, without regard that the effect of one herb might be that of neutralizing the other, and the effect of the whole totally contrary to his wishes. His forefathers, the

old man said, when all Europe was in a state of ignorance and darkness, had prescribed the same prescription—had lived contentedly, nay, often died serenely under the influence of these very mixtures; why therefore should he create innovations and changes?

There were several pastry-cook's shops. The sweetmeats, cakes, &c. &c., though totally different from anything we are accustomed to, were many of them very agreeable to the palate. Silks and satins of all sorts were to be seen on every side; curiously worked fans and fan-cases without end. The market was kept exceedingly cleanly; and, as I before said, overstocked with provisions, amongst which were the finest pigs the world could boast of. These are fed with the greatest care, and carefully washed daily. They were exposed for sale three and four together, hung up in small baskets in the same way as fowls are sold in our markets. At the same stalls, and likewise in small baskets, were plenty of fine, chubby, little, puppy-dogs. These, from three to five weeks old, were equally well fed and cared

for as the sucking-pigs, and I doubt not, equally palatable; though, from old prejudices, they, I believe, did not become generally an article of diet to the Europeans, unless to those who, having Chinese cooks and compadores, no doubt frequently introduced these little curly-haired gentlemen into their most dainty dishes, their masters not having an idea of the species of food they were eating with such gusto and relish.

The species most prized, indeed, to which the dignity of being devoured is exclusively allotted, were either black, white, or of a light brown colour, both the skew-ball and pie-bald being exempt from this honour. It was also a *sine qua non* that each one should not only possess a black roof to his mouth, like a Skye terrier, but also his tongue must be of the same sooty hue. Should they unfortunately not possess this, they stand no chance of gracing the table of the mandarin, but are left to bow wow their vulgar existence to an end. This animal is never eaten by the higher orders after it has tasted meat. I have, however,

seen the poorer classes in the south cutting up many an old fellow as big as a sheep; and after being properly stewed, they eat them with a small portion of soy with the utmost apparent relish.

END OF VOL. I.

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